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8 February 1980

# Sub-Saharan Africa Report

No. 2211



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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

EYADEMA ANALYZES CONDITIONS IN AFRICA, AFRICAN PERSONALITY

Dakar AFRICA in French Dec 79 pp 50, 51

[Interview with the President of Togo, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema--date and place not given]

[Excerpt] General Eyadema agreed to answer a series of our questions of current interest to Africa. The text of the responses follows.

[Question] This year three bloodthirsty despots were eliminated from the African political scene. Voices have been raised in Africa deploring a "certain racism" concealed behind the satisfaction of world opinion and a lack of knowledge of African traditions and the African mentality. In short, some claim that dictatorships are perfectly suited to Africans, who see in them the political personality of the father figure and of the old tribal authority. Do you think, Mr President, that this "ethnological" justification is correct and that the African populations are not in a condition to be given democratic and collegial institutions?

[Answer] It cannot be claimed that the African populations are not in a condition to be given democratic and collegial institutions. Those who make this claim appear to be totally ignorant of African realities. For, throughout Africa, while it was necessary at the start of independence to use a strong hand in order to channel energies in view of the struggle against underdevelopment, today it is accepted that it is the return to democratic and collegial institutions which is now the concern of most leaders.

Be that as it may, our external policy conforms to the ethics of the OAU--scrupulous respect of the rights of others in matters of internal and external politics. Each people needs its own institutions. Only the populations concerned can judge them suitable to their economic and cultural aspirations and needs.

[Question] Why, in your opinion, did the African heads of state and the OAU never intervene to overthrow the three dictators mentioned, despite the fact that they were disgracing Africa, and why was it necessary to wait for such a decision to be made in the capitals of the former colonial powers (London, Paris, Madrid)?

[Answer] The OAU is not a tribunal created to judge and condemn states or their leaders, but it was formed to settle differences among the member countries.

How can the OAU be asked to overthrow a member head of state when our organization's vocation is known to be helping states find a favorable solution to their problems? Moreover, as I just said, one of the fundamental principles of the OAU is noninterference in the internal affairs of member states.

[Question] If Bokassa had requested asylum in Togo, would you have welcomed him?

[Answer] Bokassa did not ask us for asylum.

[Question] Do you believe that France was right to continue to give its military "cover" to part of French-speaking Africa? In your opinion, doesn't this risk giving Cuban and Soviet military interventions an unfortunate justification?

[Answer] Some states have signed cooperation agreements with France and among these there are some which cover the military sphere. As a result, France can, at the request of the countries concerned, give military cover to those who express the desire for it.

[Question] What ideological path do you think best suits the African spirit? The totally liberal path of the Ivory Coast, an adapted socialism like that in Benin and Somalia, or an orthodox marxism as in Mozambique and Congo?

[Answer] I sincerely believe that the ideological path that best suits the African spirit is that of progress. It matters little what you call this ideological path--the liberal path, socialist or communism--provided that it can lead to the well-being of the populations concerned.

In Togo we have chosen the path of progress and development, one which does not pledge itself to any ideology but which searches for structures capable of being adapted, within the Rally of the Togolese People, for our development, based on the realities of Togolese society.

[Question] Don't you think that the principle of intangibility of colonial borders established as dogma by the OAU is often unjust, since it deprives certain peoples of part of their populations who were separated arbitrarily by colonialism, like the Somali of Ogaden?

[Answer] It is indisputable that the principle of intangibility of borders inherited from colonialism is unjust, but at the time of the OAU's creation it was a necessary evil that is now obsolete. But rather than blame the OAU, whose goal in setting up this principle as dogma was to avoid constant border disputes, it would be more appropriate to reproach the colonizers for having created this situation by arbitrarily dividing populations which constituted the same political, geographical and economic entity.

[Question] Since Lome has become the intellectual capital of the Euro-African economic association, can you tell us how Europe should act in order to truly help the development of Africa and to what extent you consider desirable its financial, technological, humane, and commercial participation in the realization of your future economic plans?

[Answer] We wish for cooperation on an equal footing, that is, that Europe should effectively contribute to the promotion of Africa's economic development.

#### Tribalism Checked

When during this interview General Eyadema alludes to principles adapted to Togolese society, which are those of the Rally of the Togolese People, he means that his regime is the instrument for breaking with the old order and that he is enlisting all citizens for the "new march" of a new Togo. Even if the methods favored are not a model of democracy in the European sense of the word, since the central committee of the sole party directs and controls all political, economic social and cultural aspects of Togolese life, it must be recognized that Eyadema's authoritarianism has not degenerated into despotism, that a climate of tolerance and tranquillity reigns in Lome, that the young people are happy, and that tribalism, a cause of internal political instability, seems to have been checked.

The Togolese head of state, although a military man by career, does not have a taste for blood and violence. Despite the appearance of a certain cult of personality springing from the mass organization and the slogans chanted in unison, the president is honest and nurses no personal ambitions. Above all, he has a profound knowledge of the Togolese soul and of his people's real character. It was he, his associates tell us, who made the following courageously lucid analysis of the complexes which are impeding the emancipation of Africans:

"For historic reasons, the African suffers despite himself from a fundamental inhibition which few minds come to admit. In the illiterate this inhibition is expressed in an almost pathological attachment to customs and traditions, instinctive refusal of innovations, a morbid fear of initiatives, limitation of effort to the strictly necessary. In the "evolved", who have undergone more or less prolonged contact with exterior civilizations, a coat of polish is superimposed on this basic inhibition without, however, weakening it in any way. This is expressed in a number of completely aberrant patterns of behavior: excessive attachment to imported habits of lifestyle and thought, particularly external appearances--the manner of dressing, language (they hesitate to speak their native language), food, an unbridled drive for enrichment by more or less honest means, contempt for others, absolute value conferred on external opinion, etc.

"Thus it is a matter of 'decomplexing' the African, whether he belongs to the elite or the masses, and seeing to it that he recovers the common denominator of the African condition and African concepts, without falling in the process into a comfortable and ineffectual traditionalism.



"This will not come without difficulty, since the process of petrification of our spirits, our "alienation" has been profound, so profound that some deny it, and even those who admit it reveal themselves, sometimes to their great surprise, to be what they would prefer to no longer be.

"A current manifestation of this complex is the weakening in many among us of the concept of dignity. In some persons it would appear to be good form to practice individually or collectively an attitude of "the outstretched hand". Every opportunity for begging is put to use without hesitation, whether with regard to citizens or the external world. Without contesting the principle of external help, Togolese must get used to the idea that the best help is self-help; that at all cost and first of all we must rely on our own means, and that behavior constantly marked by dignity is much more profitable, even financially, than any other attitude."

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INDIAN OCEAN SOCIALISM EXAMINED

Paris L'AFRIQUE ET L'ASIE MODERNES in French 4th Quarter 1979 pp 3-23

[Article by Jacques Moine: "The Indian Ocean and Socialism"]

[Text] "The Indian Ocean is the only ocean to which none of the great powers has direct access. However, in the last few years, this ocean, considered for quite awhile to be of secondary importance, has become in the eyes of the great powers one of the most sensitive zones on the globe, one whose status can influence the entire international system and challenge the balance of forces, detente, the international economic order--that is to say, peace."<sup>1</sup>

For the leaders of the states and the socialist movements of the island of the southwest Indian Ocean--Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, the Comoros<sup>2</sup> and the Seychelles--these great powers are "imperialists" whose machinations must be foiled at all costs. They must therefore work together, organize, and remain vigilant. From this point of view, after a series of liaison missions put together principally by the secretary general of the Mauritius Militant Movement (MMM), Paul Berenger, a Preparatory Committee went to work from 23-25 January 1978 in Antananarivo. The socialist forces of the Indian Ocean are going to show the entire world their determination to work in line with the declaration of the General Assembly of the United Nations making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

The Preparatory Meeting, the Parties and the People

Although the initiative of holding a large conference of the parties and socialist organizations of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean goes back to Paul Berenger and Didier Ratsiraka, president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the presidency of the preparatory committee convened in the Malagasy capital was given to Jacques Rodoul, minister of education and culture of the Seychelles, member of the Executive Central Committee of the Seychelles United People's Party (SPUP).

Besides Jacques Hodoul, for the Seychelles, and Paul Berenger for the island of Mauritius, participants in the preparatory work included, for the island of Reunion, Julien Ramin, of the Communist Party of Reunion (PCR) and representatives of the different Malagasy political parties composing the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (FNDR): Messrs Richard Andriamanjato (AKFM), Arsene Ratsifehera (ADFM), Manandafy Rakotonirina (MFM), Jean Bosco Leaby (VONJY), Gabriel Rabearimanana (VSM), Hubert Andriaminanta (UDECMA), Laurent Radaody Rakotondravao (AREMA), and the minister of foreign affairs, Christian Rami Richard (AREMA). Being unable to send delegates, the National Peoples Committee of the Comoros sent to the preparatory committee a message signed by its general secretary, confirming the principle of its adhesion to the conference of socialist parties.

At the end of the meeting, it was announced that the conference would be held in Victoria, capital of the Seychelles, from 27-29 April. Two great themes would be tackled:

--the struggle against imperialism: demilitarization of the Indian Ocean, solidarity with the peoples struggling in Southern Africa, the Ocean, the new international economic order and equitable exploitation of the ocean's resources in the waters surrounding the islands;

--development of cooperation among the parties and socialist forces of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean: possible creation of a permanent entity.

President Didier Ratsiraka explains the choice of Victoria as a site of the first conference by declaring that he does "not want for Madagascar to appear in the eyes of the other islands of the Indian Ocean, as a power having any desire for hegemony." For the chief of state of Madagascar, "the important thing is that the socialist forces of the region make a common front."

What are these socialist parties and organizations who are going to participate in the Victoria conference? Who are their leaders? For Madagascar, it is the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (FNDR). Unable to fulfill his desire to install one party [in power], President Ratsiraka had to content himself with providing, in the Constitution of December 1975, that "the most conscientious citizens, patriotic and animated by the socialist organizations, freely unite in the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution." He founded his own party, the Avant-Garde of the Malagasy Socialist Revolution (AREMA), in March 1976, and heads the front which brings together, along with AREMA, the other political bodies claiming allegiance to the revolution: AKFM, MFM, VONJY, UDECMA and VSM.

Even though it does virtually nothing and barely shows any signs of being a party, in its 3 years of existence AREMA has become the most important political body of Madagascar solely because of the fact that its president is none other than the president of the republic itself. AREMA has brought into its bosom the most opportunistic of the former militants of the Social



Democratic Party (PSD).<sup>3</sup> It holds sway over considerable funds and the zealous competition of officials who are responsible for organizing elections and verify the results of the voting. This explains the reason why AREMA took the lion's share in the distribution of seats in the Peoples National Assembly in 1977--112 out of 137.

AKFM, the Party of the Congress of Madagascar Independence, created in 1958, pro-Soviet, is led by clergyman Richard Andriamanjato, a member of the Supreme Council of the Revolution (CSR).<sup>4</sup> It is a highly structured party, having satellite organizations affiliated, worldwide, with communist mass organizations. AKFM recruits most of its activists on the Haut Plateaux, in the Merina [translation unknown] middle class. Arsene Ratsifehera, also a member of the CSR, is among the principal leaders of the party, whose newspaper IMONGO-VAOVAO he heads.

MFM, ("power to the little man"), the Proletarian Power Movement, was born of the events of May 1972, which led to the fall of the regime of President Tsiranana. It is a small revolutionary Marxist party. Its secretary general, Manandafy Ratokonirina, a member of the CSR, professor of higher learning, is an old disciple of Monja Jaona,<sup>5</sup> president of Monima (National Movement for the Independence of Madagascar). MFM joined the front in July 1977. Finding no response except among the cast-outs of the capital and its suburbs, those who are called the "zoam" (unemployed youth of Madagascar), MFM works presently in depth in the provinces, thanks to its cadres recruited among the leftist teachers.

VONJY, the party "for national unity," created in 1973 by Dr Razanabahiny,<sup>6</sup> a PSD dissident, former president of the Malagasy Union of Socialist Students, brought together the best elements of the old PSD. It recruits its followers especially from the east coast. Dr Razanabahiny, a member of the CSR, relies in effect on the members of his ethnic group, the Antaimoro, who constitute a sort of diaspora in the island, to enlarge the public of his party, which is of moderate socialist tendencies. In practice, he seems to want to loosen President Ratsiraka from the grip of AKFM and Merina [translation unknown], which he declares are manipulated and supported by the Soviets.

UDECMA (Union of Christian Democrats of Madagascar) is only a mini-group which separated in 1970 from the Christian Democratic Party of Madagascar (PDCM) of Alexis Bezaka. Its leader, Andriamorasata Solor, is nevertheless a member of the CSR, and it is reserved 2 seats in the assembly (compared to 16 for AKFM and 7 for VONJY).

Finally, VSM (Monima Socialist Movement), created in August 1979, by the dissident faction of Monja Jaona's Monima, immediately joined the front. In return, its leader, Remanindry Jaon was admitted to the Supreme Council of the Revolution, even though the party only consists of a handful of people.

The island of Mauritius will be represented at the conference by the opposition party, the Mauritius Militant Movement (MMM), created in 1969, by a group of leftist students, whose present and virulent secretary general is Paul Berenger. The MMM considers itself a revolutionary party and is inspired by a libertarian type of Marxism. Despite a long series of internal ideological battles and dissidence, the movement's hour of greatest triumph was in December 1976, when it won 34 of 70 seats in the Mauritius parliament. It has been prey, since then, to new internal crises, but exercises a great influence in organized labor circles. Aneerood Judnauth, president of the party, passes for being more moderate than Berenger. On the Central Committee, Jean-Claude de l'Estrac is more actively involved in international affairs.

The Seychelles Peoples United Party (SPUP), which will welcome the fraternal parties to the conference, is the only political body having any rights since the coup of 5 June 1977, which overthrew President Mancham. SPUP, which will assume the name Socialist Peoples Front of the Seychelles (SPFF), in June 1978, was founded in 1964 by Albert Rene, who remains its president. It is a party which also calls itself socialist and revolutionary. Beyond Jacques Hodoul, president of the committee to organize the conference, and President Albert Rene, the principal influential leaders of SPUP are Dr Maxime Ferrari and Mathew Servia, both ministers in the government over which Albert Rene presides.

SPUP, longtime opposition party, then member of the government coalition before the coup, had never won more than 47.6 percent of the votes in the general elections. Today, President Albert Rene, proclaims the "indisputable supremacy" of the SPFF in the country.

Not less than three bodies from Reunion will attend the conference: The Communist Party of Reunion (PCR), the Movement of Radicals of the Left (MRG), and Reunion Christian Witness (TCR).

The PCR became autonomous in 1959, having been since 1947 only a part of the Reunion federation in the French Communist Party (PCF). After having opted, in the past, for integration, the PCR, whose secretary general is former deputy Paul Verges, now holds for autonomy within the framework of the French Republic and tries to rein in the fraternal parties in the Indian Ocean which want to see Reunion on the road to independence.

In Reunion, the PCR is the most important opposition party. Paul Verges, who was elected to the European Assembly last March, on the PCF list is backed by men like Bruny Payet and Elie Hoareau.

The Reunion Christian Witness group constitutes the socialist wing of the local Catholic Church and gives its support to the PCR. Founded in 1970, by Mauritian priest Michel Reynolds (expelled from the department for his activities), it is presently headed by Father Rene Payet and Joseph Fontaine.

As to the Reunion federation of the Movement of Radicals of the Left, (MRG), over which Jean-Marie Fink presides, it is the result of the ouster in July 1977 from the local federation of the Socialist Party. It consists of only some 15 persons, and its presence at the conference is at least surprising.

#### The Victoria Conference, the Participants, the Resolutions

On 27 April 1978, opening day of the conference, 30 socialist leaders from the islands of the Indian Ocean are present. Representatives include;

--for the Seychelles People's United Party: Guy Sinon, minister of foreign affairs and secretary general of the party; Ministers Jacques Hodoul and Maxime Ferrari, Father Jeremie Bonnelame, Esme Jumeau and Sylvette Fricot;

--for the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (FNDR) of Madagascar: Christian Remi Richard, minister of foreign affairs; Arsene Ratsifehera, member of the CSR; Laurent Radaody-Rakotondravao, director of the cabinet of the president; Manantsara Salimo, Jean-Pierre Sambo, Benance Rahariranana, Jean de la Croix Razafitsimialona, Gabriel Rabearimanana, Hubert Raza Rene Solo Razafindramboa, Jean-Aime Ralaivelo and Henry Ratsifandrihamanana;

--for the Mauritius Military Movement (MMM): Paul Berenger, Habib Mosaheb, Ramduth Jadoo, Jean-Claude de l'Estac, and Michel Gerard Nina;

--for the Communist Party of Reunion (PCR): Paul Verges and Elie Hoareau;

--for the Movement of Radicals of the Left (MRG) of Reunion: Jean-Marie Fink, Joseph Varondin and Paul Cerou;

--for the Reunion Christian Witness (TCR): Rene Payet and Joseph Fontaine.

Socialist organizations and movement from regions near and far, invited as observers, sent representatives. Their presence explains a certain number of resolutions which will be passed. These organizations and movements are as follows:

--The Permanent Secretariat of the Conference of Progressive Socialist Parties of the Mediterranean: two observers.

--the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [Party of the Revolution] from Tanzania.

--Mozambique's FRELIMO: one representative.

--the National Front of South Yemen: Mohamed Hassan Thabet, head of the African division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Faheen A. Omar, secretary general of the Council for Solidarity and Peace of the People's Republic of Yemen.

--SWAPO from Namibia: one representative.



--the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia): two representatives.

--the Africa National Conference of Azania (South Africa).

--the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO): Fouad al Bitar, representative of the PLO in Dar es Salaam.

--the POLISARIO Front: two representatives.

France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of the Seychelles, opens the conference with a long discourse during which he affirms in particular the ideal of the leaders of the socialist parties, "which is also that of the masses whose spokesmen we are, and which can be summed up in one word: we are ready to die for the triumph of our ideas; the coming of the happiness of our peoples." President Rene insists as well on the need to demand the dismantlement of all military bases in the Indian Ocean, to harmonize the economies of the different member countries, and to assure the protection of the territorial waters of these countries.

To conclude, the chief of state of the Seychelles declares: "It seems to me good to recall that the intolerable situation created, at our expense, in the Indian Ocean, by an extremist militarization, puts the peace and tranquility of our young nations in peril. We must open up the problem and stress that the struggles for influence which are taking place in our region constitute a power-keg which threatens the peace of the whole world. We will never tolerate for our territory to be used by others, to serve rivalries which jeopardize the equilibrium of our ocean, the equilibrium of the world."

Before the presidential speech, Minister Jacques Hodoul, in the name of the preparatory committee, had welcomed the delegates and observers by reminding them that "it was a conference of parties and not of the governments of the respective countries." "We will try," he also added, "to work in such a way that our resolutions will be adopted by our governments, to lead our countries on the socialist path."

After 3 days of meetings, in committees and in plenary session, a final declaration is published. It proclaims that the socialist parties and organizations of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean, meeting at Mahe 27-29 April 1978, "to reconfirm their solidarity in their struggle against international imperialism and to construct a new society where social justice, progress and peace will reign, agree on the following common principles:

1. To unite, in the struggle, all the exploited to build a new world where man will no longer exploit man and where he will be totally free.

2. To have done with imperialism by leading their organizations and parties resolutely along the path of political, economic, social and cultural liberation, for the realization of a new world economic order and by taking control of their nations wealth for the benefit of the workers in their different countries.

3. To obtain respect, in world affairs, for a nonalignment which preserves the independence and national sovereignty of countries and to support firmly the peoples who are struggling against oppression, domination and imperialist exploitation.

4. To eliminate the after-effects of colonial domination, which means cultural depersonalization, divisions based on racism, tribalism and mistrust between peoples.

5. To wage an intransigent struggle against the racist South African and Rhodesian regimes, Zionism, as on the essential problems of the international struggle of the peoples.

The final declaration indicates also that the socialist parties and organizations of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean decide:

--to strengthen and extend their cooperation in the political, economic and social fields;

--to work with the socialist and progressive forces of the region and in the world to make of the Indian Ocean a true zone of peace where there must be no foreign military base or installation and where the exploitation of any country by another country will be banned.

Beyond this general declaration, resolutions were passed after consideration of the following subjects:

--"policy and strategy--struggle and anti-imperialist solidarity";

--"economics--exploitation of our resources and new economic order";

--"cooperation and unity of action in our movements--common platform and permanent organ of consultation."

On the subject of policy and strategy, the delegations reached agreement on various points:

--opening of the road leading to greater and greater development of their relations in all aspects;

--support for the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Western Sahara and the Palestinian people;

--desire for negotiations between the governments of the fraternal Ethiopian and Somali people in face of the active machinations of imperialism and reactionary Arab regimes;

--immediate reintegration of Mayotte into the state of Comoros;

--respect for the sovereignty of Madagascar over the islands of Bassas da India, Europa, Juan de Nova and Glorieuses and of Mauritius over Tromelin Island,<sup>7</sup>

--support for the demands of the people of Reunion for their self-determination:

- demilitarization of the Indian Ocean, and especially;
- dismantlement of the American base on Diego Garcia;
- progressive reduction of shipping and aviation of non-riparian countries;
- prohibition of the introduction and stockpiling of nuclear arms;
- demilitarization and free passage through all straits;
- prohibition against the ceding of any base rights and evacuation of all outside countries;
- dissolution of the CENTO military pact and abandonment of its so-called "South Atlantic" project;
- refusal of all countries concerned to lend assistance to the operation of military spy satellites;
- denunciation of the efforts of imperialists and certain reactionary regimes to put into effect "destabilizing" operations against progressive regimes in the region;
- call for vigilance and struggle against the machinations of imperialism which aspires to see the defense of its interests assured by virtual sub-imperialisms in South Africa, Iran,<sup>8</sup> and the reactionary Arab regimes.

In the economic field, the conference decides:

--to recommend to the governments of the islands of the Indian Ocean to coordinate their fishing development projects and to promote the creation of a regional institute of research and oceanographic training;

--to support the demand of the Seychelles for installation on its territory of a regional UN service for food and agriculture;

--to recommend the publication of maps establishing the contours of the maritime territories and all the islands, in the framework of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone;

--to launch an appeal to the international community against the illegal fishing in its exclusive economic zones;

--to support the professional and technical education in place, of trained personnel, using the complementary institutions of the region;

--to recommend:

- the conclusion of inter-island commercial accords;
- the creation of state import-export organizations on all the islands;
- organization of a regional commercial and industrial fair;
- a policy of industrial harmonization in order to establish complementary industries in the islands;
- the joint study of the creation of a shipping line.

Finally, to assure concretely the development of cooperation and unity of action among the socialist parties and organizations of the southwest Indian Ocean, the conference decides to create a permanent liaison and information committee to be situated in the Seychelles.

The presidency of this committee was given to the Seychelles and held by Jacques Hodoul, SPUP. The other members of the committee, who have the rank of vice presidents, are:

- for the Comoros<sup>9</sup>: an unnamed representative;
- for Madagascar: Laurent Radaody-Rakotondravao (FNDR);
- for Mauritius: Paul Berenger (MMM);
- for Reunion: Paul Verges (PCR).

The permanent committee's mission is to:

- ensure liaison among the members of the conference;
- regularly interchange, through the good offices of each member of the committee, press spokesmen of the members of the conference, as also news, studies and analyses;
- send back to the members of the conference the documents put together in the course of the work of the conference;
- ensure, on the international level, the largest possible dissemination of the results of the work of the conference;
- support meetings for joint objective research on the political, economic, social and cultural level, between the members.

Final resolution: the conference decides to meet in ordinary session once a year and extraordinary meetings or session of members of the conference can be convoked through the permanent committee.

The next conference will take place in the course of the first half of 1979 in Madagascar.

The Next Conference, the New Candidates, the Preparatory Meeting, the Difficulties

Two weeks after this first conference of the socialist parties and organizations of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean, two of its members, Madagascar and the Seychelles, met at Antananarivo 17-19 May 1978 to attend the 5th conference of socialist parties and countries of Africa. The Comoros, whose government under Ali Soilih was overthrown by force 5 days earlier, was absent. The island of Mauritius and Reunion not being bona fide socialist countries, the Mauritius Militant Movement and the Communist Party of Reunion had only the status of observers, sitting beside the PLO, the ANC (South



Africa), ZAPU and ZANU (Zimbabwe), SWAPO (Namibia), and the POLISARIO Front (Western Sahara).

Besides Madagascar and the Seychelles, the African delegations represent 12 countries: Libya, Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Tanzania.

The work of this 5th conference is focused principally on the struggles for liberation in southern Africa, the Western Sahara and Palestine. One should note, on this subject, the intervention of the Libyan delegates who made known President Qadhafi's decision to "henceforth put his armed forces at the disposal of national liberation movements." The theme "Indian Ocean Zone of Peace" was also discussed.

It is once more the secretary general of the MMM, Paul Berenger—described by some as an "under cover agent in service of the Soviets"—who is going to play the role of liaison, with a view toward putting together the second conference of socialist parties of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean. This conference having been set for the first half of 1979, he goes to Madagascar on 16 January in order to hold discussions with President Didier Ratsiraka. Returning to Mauritius, he heads off next on 26 January for the Seychelles, where he meets President Rene and participates in working sessions with the president of the permanent committee, Minister Jacques Hodoul.

Subsequent to the Victoria conference, some problems appeared regarding the participation of certain parties and the new candidates. It is a question, in effect, of determining whether the time is ripe to go beyond the framework of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean and to admit as full members the socialist parties of the riverine countries such as Mozambique, Tanzania and South Yemen.

What approach to take both with regard to the candidates in power such as the Workers Party (PTR) and the Mauritius Militant Socialist Progressive Movement (MMSP) on the island of Mauritius, and the Marxist-Leninist Communist Organization of Reunion (OCMLR)?

At the end of January, Dev Virahsawmy, leader of the MMSP—a pro-Chinese mini-group born of the schism with MMM—sent a letter to President Albert Rene and to the permanent committee to request the participation of his party at the next conference, believing that "power brings a certain contribution to the anti-imperialist struggle of the oppressed peoples and nations."

At the same time, Kher Jagatsingh, minister of education of the island of Mauritius and secretary general of the Workers Party—a part of the government coalition of the prime minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam—wrote also to the permanent committee to submit his candidacy. On Mauritius, Mr Jagatsingh's move causes tremors inside the Workers Party. The president of the body, James Burty David, is the object of strong criticism from certain members who demand that negotiations already begun on this subject

with Paul Berenger, leader of the opposition, be stopped immediately. Other members hold that this question should be decided at the level of the executive committee of the party, or at the level of the parliamentary group, which is to say, the government.

Another Mauritian organization expressed the desire to participate in the conference: the Christian Movement for Socialism, pro-MPM, headed by Father Reynolds Michel. The MPM, to reinforce its role and position, also supports the candidacy of the Organization of the People of Rodrigues.<sup>10</sup>

It is certain that the OCMLR, the only party to ask for Reunion's independence, if it is admitted to the second conference of the socialist parties of the islands of the Indian Ocean, runs the risk of irritating the Communist Party of Reunion. Born in 1975 of the fusion of Marxist-Leninist study groups, the Marxist-Leninist Communist Organization of Reunion accuses the communists of Reunion of "revisionism." It is led by Georges Sinamale and counts, among the members of its executive committee, the teacher Andre Payet and Roland Turpin. Even though still considered a mini-group--having no more than a handful of activists and some 200 supporters, OCMLR was invited as an observer to the 32d session of the committee on liberation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in January 1979, at Dar es Salaam. Presently cutting the figure of a liberation movement, it can count on the strong support of Chama Cha Mapinduzi, Tanzania's sole political party.

Initially set for 21 April 1979, in the Seychelles, the meeting of the preparatory committee for the second conference of socialist parties of the Indian Ocean is reset for 5 May, "because of the unavailability of one of its members." In fact, the postponement is arguably due to the confused situation which reigns in the Seychelles archipelago. In the absence of Jacques Hodoul, the meeting is chaired, in the name of the Peoples Progressive Front of the Seychelles (SPPF), by the secretary of state for the president charged with public information and affairs, James Michel.

A communique published at Victoria at the end of the meeting indicates that the preparatory committee decided to hold the second general assembly of the conference before the end of the month of August, at Antananarivo. The communique states that the theme of the conference will be "strengthening the militant solidarity of the socialist forces of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean, in light of changes in the situation in the islands, the region, and the world, since the first conference." Regarding the admission into the conference of new socialist organizations, the committee decided that these bodies must achieve reconciliation with the local organizations which were already members, "in accordance with the resolutions of the first conference at Mahe." The communique indicates finally that in the course of its work the committee prepared a list of observers to be invited to the second conference.

On the island of Mauritius, at the time of the decisions of the preparatory committee, the president of the Workers Party, J. B. David, was declaring from 10 May that his party had no objections to negotiating with the MMM the modalities of a common platform of struggle against the power which contribute to the militarization of the Indian Ocean. He was explaining even that the most important thing was to create a national policy against the powers which want to make of the Indian Ocean a munitions dump.

On the other side, the MMMSP, apparently not taking note of the Victoria communique, let it be known that it was expecting an official answer from the committee, to its request for participation. The Organization of the People of Rodrigues, through the voice of its leader, Serge Clair, indicated that it was astonished that the preparatory meeting in the Seychelles was holding up its possible participation, indirectly charging that the MMM wished to forestall it. Mr Clair stated, however, that it was true that in 1977 he had personally wish that the OPR, which supports the principle of the Indian Ocean zone of peace, could participate in the first conference.

On 25 May, it was learned that the second conference of the socialist parties and organizations of the islands of the Indian Ocean would no longer be held in the Malagasy capital, but once again in the Seychelles. Several hypotheses can be advanced on the subject of this abrupt change.

--The Seychelles Government, fearing as always that it is the target of an operation like Cotonou or Moroni, led by mercenaries, hopes to maintain on a more or less permanent basis, a friendly foreign political presence on its territory;

--The Malagasy Government, with or without French diplomatic pressure, does not want, for reasons of economics and internal politics, to preside at a conference in the course of which France would be certainly subjected once again to accusations on the subject of Reunion, Mayotte and the scattered islands close to Madagascar; especially at a time when the decision should be made about an official visit to the Great Island by President Giscard d'Estaing.

The month of August approaching, Paul Berenger leaves Mauritius on 29 July to go to Reunion and Madagascar. At Reunion, he has talks with the secretary general of the Communist Party of Reunion, Paul Verges, and with Serge Sinamale and the other leaders of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Organization of Reunion. It is evident that the discord persists between the PCR and the OCHLR, and that the two bodies have not been able to hammer out even a minimal common platform. On Madagascar, the secretary general of MMM once more visits President Ratsiraka. This meeting with the Malagasy chief of state Berenger describes as being one of the most "enriching of my life."

According to Berenger, a new meeting of the permanent committee was going to be held in the Seychelles on 11 August, to try to smooth out the latest

difficulties, after the opening of the second conference. It does not seem that this meeting took place, and the month of August went by without the opening of the second general assembly of the conference of the socialist parties and organizations of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean.

The socialist leaders of the islands, in reality, had to face serious problems, notably those of Mauritius and Madagascar. On Mauritius, the "itinerant ambassador," Paul Berenger, is very concerned about a quasi-general strike unleashed by the General Workers Federation. The secretary general of MM is the principal mover of this important labor union. The strike is not over until 23 August after having paralyzed the country for some 10 days, during which time "criminal acts" are committed: setting fire to fields of sugar cane, diverse acts of sabotage.... The special mobile force and the riot unit intervened several times using tear gas. On 6 September, the secretary general of the Workers Party, Kher Jagatsingh, boldly declares, in the course of a meeting, that the MM has conspired with the aim of provoking a coup. For his part, the president of the party, J. B. David, describes the recent events as a "campaign by the MM to create a psychosis in the country and to destabilize it." In the inner circles of government it is even said that the prime minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, confirmed at the time of his visit to Europe, that there was indeed an attempted coup. It is advanced that this attempt "benefitted from the financial support of two foreign countries, one of which is in the Indian Ocean." Without a doubt, it is the Democratic Republic of Madagascar which is being discussed.

On 8 December, Paul Berenger denounces the government's "politics of fiction," which consists in linking recent events to an attempted coup on the part of the MM and denouncing the aid brought to the Mauritian Government in the affair by a foreign power whose role in Africa is "known to all." The allusion to France seems clear.

Strikes also break out on Madagascar. The initial strike of teachers is followed on 7 August by a general strike of office workers. The entire administration is paralyzed. Not until 8 days later will there be a noticeable partial return to work. During this period, elements of the armed forces flash through the streets of the capital, ready to guard against any eventuality. The malaise in the public sector was caused by the entry into force of a new grille indiciaire [translation unknown]. Sanctions are applied, but they hit only the contractors which are licensed and replaced by soldiers of the Peoples Army.

The unavailability, in August, of certain other socialist leaders of the Indian Ocean is explained also by their mobilization to prepare for the Nonaligned Summit, whose opening was scheduled for 3 September in Havana. This was the case, in particular, of the president of the permanent committee of the conference, Jacques Hodoul, who became in July minister of foreign affairs for his country.



After the OAU summit in July in Monrovia, that of Havana will allow Presidents Didier Ratsiraka and Albert Rene to meet and discuss their common pre-occupations: the struggle against imperialism and the unity of socialist forces.

Strikes in Madagascar, strikes on Mauritius, disputes between the PCR and the OCMLR in Reunion, participation in the Nonaligned Summit at Havana--the socialist leaders of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean were very busy during the months of August and September.

On 11 October, in fact, two to three thousand students demonstrate in the streets of Victoria, the small capital, against the government's proposal for "National Service for Youth." The following day, the demonstration continues on a much larger scale and turns into rioting. Administration autos are stoned, as are National Transport Company buses and store windows. Turned over, a police vehicle catches fire. The demonstrators carry placards where one can read anti-government and anti-socialist slogans. In some of them, Rene is compared to Bokassa. Some youths go so far as to demand the return of the "playboy" (Mancham). On 14 October, in a radio speech, President Albert Rene affirms that the riots of the 12th were part of a plot to overthrow the government. Accused of acts of sabotage and vandalism, 21 persons are arrested. The government, at the same time, bends: the National Service, if it is created, will be solely a voluntary organizations. To remove the taste of this defeat, which could cast doubts on the electoral results of June and to mark their solidarity and their support for President Rene, the leaders of the SPPF organize on 15 October a march of all their activists in the streets of Victoria. All the office workers are asked to join the parade on pain of losing their jobs.

At the start of November, no information indicates whether the second conference will take place before the end of the year.

#### An Example of "Active Solidarity of Socialist Forces"

In the Seychelles, from the time of the coup of 5 June 1977, the situation never really stabilized.<sup>11</sup> The periods of tension, in fact, are frequent. Thus on 23 March 1979, new security measures were taken. The anxiety of the government resulted from information according to which expresident Mancham had travelled to Mauritius and the arrival of mercenaries, paid to overthrow the regime, was imminent. Now in the Seychelles, the elections must take place at the latest before the end of June.

Believing Tanzanian military aid<sup>12</sup> insufficient to oppose a possible counter-coup, or simply to neutralize an uprising of opponents, "President Albert Rene decides to put to the test the "active solidarity of socialist forces" of the countries of the Indian Ocean. On 5 April, he sends to Madagascar in great secrecy, at least for the Seychelles, his faithful secretary of state for information, James Michel. The following day, the Seychellois minister hands President Didier Ratsiraka a message from President Albert Rene.

To strengthen the theory according to which the Seychelles is the object of a threat of aggression, there proceeded in Mahe on 7 April the arrest of a Belgian mercenary, Alfred Lefevre, who had come quite foolishly to enjoy the sweetness of Seychelloise women.

The Malagasy chief of state accedes with celerity to the request of President Rene. On 11 April, 100 soldiers from the Peoples Army of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar embark for the Seychelles on board a Boeing 737 of Air Madagascar.<sup>13</sup> Reinforcements arrive the 15th in the form of two Malagasy warships, the "Fanantena" and the "Mailaka",<sup>14</sup> bearing on board another detachment of 100 soldiers.

On 28 April, two contingents of Tanzanian soldiers, with 100 soldiers in each, land in their turn at Mahe, followed by a party "slightly less numerous" 2 days later. At the end of April, the strength of the foreign troops on Seychellois soil is estimated by the official press at 500. With the Army of Liberation, the Popular Militia, and the Seychellois special police, the Malagasy and Tanzanian soldiers proceed, during more than 2 months, to engage in a great number of exercises: naval operations, landings, sweeping the capital, target practice, etc. Thought asked, Kenya refused to send a naval unit to the Seychelles to participate in the combined maneuvers.

On 15 June, in an article entitled: "Two Months After the Beginning of Combined Maneuvers, the Watchword Remains Vigilance," the daily NATION, official organ of the government, writes: "...All together, the soldiers and officers of the three armies demonstrate, through their common experiences, the affirmation of the solidarity between the socialist peoples of the region, and the power of their united forces..." adding, "...the defense of our country and that of our region have become tangible realities in the eyes of the Seychellois people, the peoples of the region, of the world in general, and above all, in the eyes of those who had need of this lesson to cease nourishing chimerical dreams about the role they could once again play in our country or in the region, at the end of who knows what criminal adventure...."

For his part, responding in an interview, President Didier Ratsiraka states: "We have always struggled for the unification and strengthening of the socialist and progressive forces in the world. Our solidarity with the Seychelles proceeds thus from this state of mind. It does not constitute a change, or a new principle of our policy, but an illustration and practical application, among other things, of its militant and revolutionary nature."

In obtaining from Presidents Ratsiraka and Nyerere the dispatch of troops to the Seychelles, President Rene has won something he knows is tenuous: the unfolding without incident of the various phases of the presidential and legislative elections scheduled from 23-26 June. Very impressed, not to say overwhelmed, by this deployment of forces, by the frequent firing of automatic weapons and heavy arms, the Seychellois population was led docilely to the polls to elect the only candidate for the presidency, Albert Rene, and the candidates of the only party to the Popular Assembly.

Force permits many things, especially in socialist states. While the most optimistic observers only gave Rene, at the beginning of the year, the support of at most 40 percent of the population, the results proclaimed after the counting of the ballots at the end of July give him 97.99 percent of the vote. Despite this resounding victory, which attempts to show that the regime receives the support of the entire populace, apart from the few voices of the most courageous opponents, the Tanzanian and Malagasy soldiers were continuously present on Seychellois territory, in November. Relief troops were sent and the combined maneuvers continue. Arms and munitions, provided by Madagascar and Tanzania, have been stocked on an island close to Mahe.

The Seychelles is becoming, thus, a training center and the logistical base for a socialist force of the islands of the southwest Indian Ocean. This force would indeed one day:

--lend assistance to Berenger's men, to overthrow the regime in place on Mauritius;

--bring support to the pro-independence guerrillas of Reunion;

--assist in the recapture of the islets of Tromelin, Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Bassas da India and Europa;

--come to the rescue of any socialist regime in the region threatened with destabilization.

For Albert Rene, "It is a question of contributing to the defense of the people's governments, socialists," and too, "it is necessary that the countries most directly threatened get to work to coordinate, to create a striking force ready to intervene."

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Cf. Mohammad-Reza Djalili, "The Indian Ocean: What Do I Know"?, P.U.S., 1978, p 55.
2. Before the coup of 13 May 1978.
3. The old governmental party of the Tsiranana regime.
4. The second of the institutions of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar; it assists the president in the conception, direction and control of overall state policy.
5. Leader of the peasant revolt in the south in April 1971.
6. Dr Marojama Razanabakiny.

7. These islands turn up again under the exclusive sovereignty of France (attached to the Ministry of Overseas Departments and Territories).
8. At the time of the conference the Shah was still in power in Iran.
9. At the time of the decision, President Ali Soilih is still in power.
10. Island of Rodrigues: an appendage of Mauritius, pop. 26,000.
11. See "L'Afrique et L'Asie Modernes," No 119, pp 2-23.
12. Since 5 June 1977 50 Tanzanian soldiers oversee the training of the Seychellois army.
13. Air France still owns 17.22 percent of the capital of Air Madagascar.
14. A gift of France, at the time of President Tsiranana.

9516

CSO: 4400



BRIEFS

ANGOLA-SDAR CONTACTS--El Ayoun--A delegation from the MPLA-Labor Party is visiting the Saharan Democratic Republic for the purpose of coming in contact with the situation in that country, where the Polisario Front is currently starting major military operations against the Moroccan garrisons in Smara, Lem Seid, Guelta Zamour and Birenzaran. The delegation, which is headed by Pedro Mungo from the MPLA-Labor Party's Department of Foreign Relations, is accompanied by a group of newsmen from the RPA's leading news organs. [Text] [Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 6 Jan 80 p 53] 2909

CONSTITUTIONAL STUDY--Comrade Abilio Duarte, member of the PAIGC's Standing Committee, president of the National Assembly and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Cape Verde, has been in Bissau since the day before yesterday, in order to participate in a working meeting that is in session for Guinea-Bissau's constitutional revision and for the preparation of the fraternal country's first constitution. Comrade Abilio Duarte is accompanied by the Cape Verdian minister of national education and culture, Comrade Carlos Reis. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 10 Jan 80 p 1] 2909

RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS--Yesterday, with a call made between Beira and Salisbury, the secretary of transportation and energy of Southern Rhodesia symbolically initiated telephone communications between the two countries. Therefore, within a few days our country will also be in contact with that British colony through those facilities, after the initiation of rail and highway traffic undertaken recently (which is actually to be implemented shortly), following the official opening of the border between Mozambique and Southern Rhodesia, at the Machipanda station, on 12 January. Moreover, air travel between the two countries has already started, with last Sunday's flight between Maputo and Salisbury, and with the beginning of regular air connections between Beira and that Rhodesian city tomorrow, Wednesday. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 15 Jan 80 p 1] 2909

## BRIEFS

USSR SPORTS DELEGATION--Luanda, 12 January--A Soviet delegation consisting of sports experts Valentina Gorodetskaya, head of the Sports Committee of the USSR; Reinf Meill, chief of the mass sports department of the Sports Committee of Estonia; and Boris E. Choutkine, coach and chief of the Soviet Union's Sports School, is in Luanda. With the first two individuals, seminars and plans related to physical culture and mass sports will take place for about 2 weeks; while, with the third, a course on sports gymnastics will be organized over a 30-day period. The presence of these experts in Angola is part of the arrangement for cooperation made between the Peoples Republic of Angola and the Soviet Union. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Jan 80 p 6] 2909

CSO: 4400

PEREIRA LAMENTS HOSTAGE SITUATION IN IRAN

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 10 Jan 80 p 3

[Excerpts] During an interview granted during a private visit to the island of Sao Vicente which took place a few days after the meeting in Praia held from 22 to 25 November by the Executive Struggle Committee [CEL] of the PAIGC, the secretary general of the PAIGC discussed various current issues, both national and international, such as the significance of the last meeting of our party's executive organ, and the situation in Iran.

Aristides Pereira added: "I must say that the meeting held at Praia was completely devoted to problems related to the party, its operation, the improvement of its entities and the creation of the Secretariat of the Supreme Struggle Committee, which was approved and which constitutes an extremely important step for us in the search for greater efficiency and greater benefits from the work that can be done by our party."

The creation of the Secretariat of the Supreme Struggle Committee, one of the most significant results of the CEL meeting, will actually lend new dynamics to the party's operations on the supranational level, and will back up all of the party's action, whether in Guinea or in Cape Verde.

Commenting on the situation that prevails in Iran, the PAIGC's secretary general did not fail to express his concern, "not only over the seriousness that marks the situation at present, but also because we, as a state of law for which international legality is even a reason for our existence, cannot by any means approve acts of flagrant violation of international law such as this one of occupying an embassy. We consider it a senseless act which could entail unforeseeable consequences. We are also concerned about the irrevocable nature of the positions that the government of Iran has assumed, refusing any negotiations."

President Pereira also voiced his concern over the consequences of this situation, which could have a worldwide effect.

"With regard to energy, we also think that there are great dangers for all the consuming countries, and we are obviously in that category. We keep hoping that good sense will prevail, and that a negotiable solution to the problem will eventually be found."

2909

CSO: 4401

PORTUGUESE TEAM PROVIDES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 10 Jan 80 p 2

[Text] A Portuguese medical team has been in Bissau since last Saturday on a service mission. It came to our country as part of the cooperation that exists with the Gulbenkian Foundation. The mission is headed by Prof Peraz de Oliveira, who is in charge of the Departments of Ophthalmology and the History of Medicine at the School of Medical Sciences of the New University of Lisbon, and chief of ophthalmological services at that hospital facility.

The team consists of five doctors, a nurse specializing in ophthalmological surgery and surgical recovery, and a technician specializing in optical mechanics from that clinic.

The Portuguese doctors will remain in the country for 30 days. During that period of time they will engage in their work, including an experiment in the application of ophthalmological science in the three interrelated areas of the health system. One group will concentrate on prevention, and will make a survey in the primary and secondary schools of the capital. Another will hold external consultations, and the last group will conduct an investigation of curable blindness at various health stations in Bissau.

The team has with it an electronic device for diagnosis, other materials for ophthalmological surgery purchased by the Gulbenkian Foundation and a large amount of medicines provided by Portuguese laboratories specializing in the field.

The Portuguese mission has yet another goal, namely, the training of native cadres. For this purpose, it is traveling with a complete optical mechanics office, with the most sophisticated materials, for assembly work. The office will serve to train native technicians in the field of optical mechanics. Nursing cadres will also be trained, particularly for ophthalmological surgery, and in the conservation of surgical materials.

2909

CSO: 4401



BRIEFS

**TAXIS ON PRIVATE BASIS**--The use of taxis has become an exclusively private activity in Guinea-Bissau, owing to the unsatisfactory results of an experiment that the state made in 1978, with partial intervention in the sector. Of the 50 new vehicles then put into circulation as taxis, over half are now unusable or considerably damaged. The Guinea-Bissau authorities blame the situation on the lack of caution on the part of drivers, which caused serious deficits in the use of the vehicles. [Text] [Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 30 Dec 79 p 54] 2909

**BATTERY SHORTAGE**--Batteries are an item which have recently come to be in obviously short supply on the domestic market. It is no longer possible to find batteries for lamps and transistors in the interior. At the regional hospital in Cantchungo, the Chinese cooperant physicians are quite concerned, because the batteries that they use in the acupuncture (physiotherapy) section, which treats nearly 70 persons per day, are nearly depleted. The same problem exists in the ophthalmology section. When we contacted our correspondent with the State Commission of Commerce, Industry and Trades, we were informed that most of the batteries that have been sold lately in the country are gifts from China. However, the SOCOMIN and People's Stores enterprises expect to be receiving this product soon. [Text] Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 10 Jan 80 p 5] 2909

**CCCE AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE**--The Central Fund for Economic Cooperation (CCCE) has just granted additional loans to 11 nations in Africa and on the Indian Ocean, amounting to nearly 640 million francs, or 32 billion CFA [African Financial Community] francs. Insofar as Guinea-Bissau is concerned, that agency and the Aid and Cooperation Fund (FAC) will contribute to the operation of the Cumere agroindustrial center, for which they have placed at our government's disposal a loan of 8.4 million francs, added to a subsidy of 2.1 million FAC francs. The latter sum will cover the cost of training cadres and of technical backup for the start of the operations. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 10 Jan 80 p 1] 2909

END OF PDCI SECRETARIES GENERAL MEETING REPORTED

Review of the Meeting

Abidjan FRATERNITE-MATIN in French 24-25 Dec 79 p 12

[Article by Yaya Sow]

[Text] The annual meeting of the subsection secretaries general of the PDCI-RDA [Ivory Coast Democratic Party-African Democratic Rally] ended Friday afternoon on the floor of the National Assembly, presided over by the secretary general of the Party. The meeting closed with the forming of concrete resolutions reaffirming and emphasizing the role of the secretaries general in the populations' militant participation in realizing the objectives of the PDCI-RDA.

This new cooperation between the Politburo and the secretaries general of the subsections, on all of the political, economic and social problems they are confronted with in their respective districts enabled the secretaries general to make new commitments affecting the smooth operation of the Party's political apparatus.

They made those commitments to explain to the rank and file members of their basic subsections the meaning of the policy being pursued by the president of the Republic and founder of the Party in his pursuit of man's happiness.

They also made commitments to seek solutions to the misunderstandings, dissension and personal quarrels and struggles for influence between the administrative authorities and the officers of their respective regions, as the chief of state asked them to do.

The secretaries general of the subsections also committed themselves to mobilize more than ever for all development battles undertaken by the Party on behalf of the populations. They will fight those battles beside the peasants whose consciousness they are engaged in awakening, the women they will help toward promotion in the AFI [expansion unknown] and the young people, professionals or simple rank and file whose return to their origins, that is to their villages, for more real and more extensive militant actions, they will favor.

The secretaries general of the subsections also want to repeat for the Politburo their commitment to make available to the services concerned the means to fight social calamities (crime, prostitution, drug use) and thus produce a healthier PDCI-RDA member.

Finally they are asking for development of health infrastructures (hospitals, maternity hospitals, community clinics and health centers), social infrastructures (housing, schools) and road infrastructures in their subsections, to promote the emergence of the population, urban as well as rural.

Concrete resolutions which, without being pious vows, will accompany reflection and profound meditation on the part of the secretaries general of the subsections on the problems raised by the chief of state. Which only goes to show that the solution to all these problems depends upon respecting and setting in motion the directives of the president of the Republic.

On behalf of the Politburo Honore Polneau stated in the meeting's closing speech that "the difficulties inherent in our development are pushing us inexorably toward the priority task of reorganizing our domestic trade and our conduct vis-a-vis the economic problems we must confront."

The spokesman for the Politburo also emphasized to the secretary general of the subsections of the PDCI-RDA that "we must not only adapt to the situation imposed upon us, but also have a modern perception, a concrete knowledge of the basic problems, just as we must have a disposition to receive at any time the content of popular aspirations.

"The future," Mr Polneau said, "belongs to a new type of politician and technical leader.

"Our meeting, "Honore Polneau concluded, "is salutary because it enables us to renew candid contacts, to vitalize our militancy, to further strengthen and motivate you as leaders in your mission to explain, to mobilize the population for development."

#### Speech by Honore Polneau

Abidjan FRATERNITE-MATIN in French 24-25 Dec 79 pp 12-13

[Speech by Honore Polneau, representing the Politburo]

[Text] It is a distinguished and formidable honor to present the closing speech of the Annual Conference of the Secretaries General of the PDCI-RDA, our great Party, on behalf of the Politburo.

In the first place I should like to pay deserved homage on behalf of all of you: to the chief of state, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny to the message he was kind enough to address to you at the opening of our work, reinforcing the memorable one of last 7 December in which, in addition to the themes submitted for reflection by all the militants in preparation for the Seventh PDCI-RDA

Congress, he exhorted the Party's officers and administrative leaders to "collaborate loyally and unfailingly. Indeed we could not have paralyzing duality between us, but rather constructive, dynamic complementarity."

You will have recognized in those words a quotation from the message that President Felix Houphouët-Boigny addressed to you at the beginning of our work.

This brings us back to the constants of our policy of dialog, tolerance, peace and solidarity sustained by the constant search for unity based on stability, itself indispensable to any enterprise that seeks to develop through labor and with discipline.

The difficulties inherent in our development are pushing us inexorably toward the priority reorganization of our internal trade and our conduct vis-a-vis the economic problems we must confront. We must not only adapt to the situation imposed upon us, but also have a modern perception, a concrete knowledge of the basic problems, just as we must have a disposition to make note at any time of the popular aspirations. The future belongs to a new type of politician and technical leader.

Mr Secretary General of the PDCI-RDA,

Allow me to say aloud that as usual you have, by your presence, with patience, tolerance and skill, brilliantly conducted our work right up to the end. Allow me to congratulate me in the name of all the participants in these sessions and to thank you for your exhaustive report, which not only shed light on our debates, but once again bore witness to your receptiveness, your loyalty and your faithfulness as father of the nation. Mr Secretary General of the PDCI-RDA, you are a man of reflection and action and a devoted associate.

#### Positive Contribution

I should also like, on behalf of all of us, to salute the positive contribution of Ange Barry-Battesti and Gui Dibo, who are respectively minister of Technical Education and Professional Training and minister of Mines, and who, with clear, substantial reports and lucid explanations, contributed to the success of our work and in particular gave the secretaries general of the sub-sections a wealth of information that will be useful to them in accomplishing their mission of linking the authorities and the masses.

We thank Ministers Battesti and Gui Dibo for that.

My thanks also to the minister of the Interior and all the prefects who, by their noteworthy contribution brought their stone [as published] to the success of our sessions and showed that the "current is passing" in a noteworthy way between the administrative and political authorities for the greatest benefit of the rural populations. The efforts will have to be continued, to attain a true "symbiosis" of administrative and political authorities for the benefit of the peasant populations.



Comrade members of the Politburo,

Secretaries general,

The relaxed atmosphere, the fraternal ambience and the frankness of our debates eloquently reflect the image of the PDCI-RDA, the crucible of the Ivorian nation, which is crystallizing all of its great forces for active participation in the country's development.

#### Salutary Cooperation

Our annual meeting, a pause for reflection leading to better concerted action, is salutary because it enables us to renew frank contacts, vitalize our militancy, further strengthen and motivate you as leaders in your mission to explain and mobilize the population for development, a long-term project engaged in by our country.

Secretaries general,

Out of the whole of our work comes a certain political maturity that enables us to believe in the triumph of cooperation and dialog, while applying our golden rule in every circumstance: the rule that all the country's sons must be united so that changes and adaptations to the new conditions can be accomplished smoothly.

Comrade secretaries general, on behalf of the Politburo I hope that when you return to your subsections the results of our work will be brought to the knowledge of our populations, and that the themes of the Seventh PDCI-RDA Congress, as indicated by the honorable president of the Party--democratization in the selection of leaders, adaptation of Party structures, community development, education based on national objectives of development--be profoundly reflected upon in order to facilitate the decisions of the next Congress bearing upon continued progress and equilibrium leading to the happiness of the Ivorian man.

In conclusion, in order to attain our objectives I should like to urge you, following up the secretary general of the PDCI-RDA, to "remove from us the demons of divisiveness and egotism, so that the genius of our nation can at last give its true measure, that President Felix Houphouet-Boigny may live forever in the minds and hearts of future generations."

Long live the PDCI-RDA!

Long live the Ivory Coast, and happy holidays and best wishes to you.

#### Resolutions Made

Abidjan FRATERNITE-MATIN in French 24-25 Dec 79 p 13

The annual meeting of the secretaries general of the subsections of the PDCI-RDA, called by the Politburo, was held on 19, 20 and 21 December 1979, chaired by Philippe Yace, our devoted and dynamic secretary general.

All the prefects of the Republic of Ivory Coast participated in the meeting.

After devotedly listening to the magisterial message of our enlightened guide, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, a message full of wisdom and lessons,

After following with sustained attention the brilliant moral report of our secretary general,

The secretaries general greatly appreciated the message of great economic and political import from the honorable president of our great Party and welcomed President Yace's report with satisfaction.

These two documents, whose harmony and complementarity are to be underlined, define not only the tasks incumbent upon the secretaries general, but they forcefully reaffirm our options and our political finality, state the Party's objectives, stress the necessity to be tuned in to the people, to consolidate political achievement, to avoid slovenliness and waste, to very quickly improve relations between political and prefectural authorities. They underline the need to modify fundamentally our economic and social conduct, to explain adequately the difficulties encountered and the efforts accomplished, with a view to exhorting each one to maintain cohesion around the father of the nation, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

These two reports particularly recommended aiding in the blossoming and the improvement of the well-being of our peasant brothers, with a view to urging youth to practice that noble profession, and stressed the participation of all in the necessary symbiosis of the leaders in the practice of democracy, of the single party, which conditions the success of our development.

The secretaries general of the subsections of the PDCI-RDA,

Unanimously recognizing that the chief of state's message is a source of meditation, reflection and exhortation to be more and more acutely aware,

Note with satisfaction that the loftiness of view of the honorable president of the PDCI-RDA fully justifies veneration, esteem and total confidence on the part of all militants,

Aware of his unfailing devotion to the nation's cause and his steadfast determination to arrive at economic independence and improvement in the standard of living of the Ivorian man, despite the profound crisis that is especially affecting the small nations,

Believing that our secretary general, President Philippe Yace, carries on his responsibilities with skill, devotion and loyalty,

Persuaded that the secretary general's report is a working document rich in lessons and warnings,

Believing that the brilliant reports, followed by debates, of the minister of Technical Education and Professional Training the minister of Mines, contributed precise information and made possible a better comprehension of the objectives of these two ministerial departments,

Believing that national unity, the principal objective of the PDCI-RDA, must be protected at any cost, in the higher interest of the Party and the nation,

Believing that the participation of all in the country's development is a national duty,

Believing that national unity requires cooperation between all social strata and reconciliation of the technical orientation of the young professionals and the experience and wisdom of their elders,

Seeing that no progress can be seriously envisaged without the effective participation of every Ivorian,

Understanding that the single party, which is more in accordance with our way of thinking and our culture, makes possible the maximum concentration of energy and the expression of the will of our people without demagogy or outburst,

Believing that the sense of the public good, the professional conscience, the solidarity of social groups, are so necessary that they should be part of our daily life, which implies a fundamental change in our economic and social conduct,

Aware that it is our duty to aid in the blossoming and the improvement of the standard of living of our peasant brothers, who deserve to benefit from a special solicitude, with a view to urging the young people to practice this profession,

Believing that the skill and the fund of confidence enjoyed by the young professionals has made possible considerable progress in regional development,

Believing that although they have the knowledge, the wisdom and experience of their elders are absolutely necessary to them,

Taking into account the need to avoid any paralyzing duality and to reconcile technical competence and effective militancy,

Believing that the virtues of dialog no longer have to be demonstrated to the Ivorian,

Believing that despite the efforts of the Party and the government, teaching vocations are still inadequate and are compromising the children's future,

Considering the determining role of women in the emancipating struggle and the no less preponderant role they are playing beside the men in the country's development,

Given that the secretaries general must strive to be the craftsmen of equilibrium, with a view to progress and social peace,

Whereas, it is incumbent upon the secretaries general to explain unceasingly the profound meaning of the work of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny and to urge cooperation, dialog and cohesion, to urge all to take part unrestrainedly in the common work,

Whereas, all opinions may be freely expressed in the Party organ, FRATERNITE-HEBDO,

Finally, taking into account the committee reports, speeches, observations, concerns, suggestions and wishes expressed during these three days of working together and reflecting,

The secretaries general of the subsections of the PDCI-RDA, meeting in the National Assembly in Abidjan on 19, 20 and 21 December 1979,

Thank the father of the nation very much for the wisdom and lucidity with which he is leading our country on the path to progress, in peace, justice, despite a very difficult international economic situation,

Unreservedly approve the message of the chief of state and the report of the secretary general,

Thank the president of the Republic, the Party and the government for having decided to examine solicitously the future of the peasants, and for having brought the price of coffee and cocoa this year to 300 francs per kg,

Take pleasure in the serene political climate prevailing in the whole Ivory Coast, and the improved relations between secretaries general and prefectural authorities,

Repeat to the honorable president of the PDCI-RDA their indestructible devotion to his person, his policy, his work, and pray to the All Powerful to give him an iron constitution and let him long remain at the head of our Party,

Assure the secretary general of their unfailing support in the dynamic actions he is faithfully and courageously conducting with the father of the nation in the service of the Party,

Address their profound congratulations and gratitude to the secretary general of the Party, President Philippe Yace, whose skill and political sense contributed effectively to our work,

Express their profound gratitude to the ministers of Mines and of Technical Education and Professional Training for their brilliant reports, and to the minister of the Interior for his effective contribution.

The secretaries general of the subsections of the PDCI-RDA,

Mindful of their responsibility, agree to explain to all militants the profound meaning of the work of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, to do everything possible to obtain loyal and unfailing cooperation with the administrative authorities and the young professionals,



Mobilize, as they have always done, to awaken our peasant populations to the awareness of their own interests and to the influence they represent in the choices available to us,

Agree to remain tuned in to our populations, to encourage parents, to stimulate teaching vocations,

Propose to aid the Ivorian Women's Association, after the next Congress, in creating AFI sections wherever there is an existing subsection of the PDCI-RDA,

Ask that the young professionals invested with certain political responsibilities return to their basic subsections to prove their militantism,

Rejoice in the decision of the chief of state with regard to improving the Ivorians' standard of living, especially in the rural milieu,

Hope that the Public Works subdivisions will increase,

Ask the government to take strict measures with regard to immigration,

Insist, to the Politburo and the government, that the appropriate means be placed at the disposal of the services concerned with a view to suppressing drug use, crime and smuggling,

Ask that ground transportation rates be brought into harmony,

Congratulate the government and the Party for the work undertaken, which proves the determination to progress, despite a difficult economic situation,

Wish a good and happy new year to the chief of state and the secretary general of the PDCI-RDA, to the members of the Politburo, as well as to all the militants, and

Long live the Ivory Coast in peace and prosperity.

#### Future Problems

Abidjan FRATERNITE-MATIN in French 22-23 Dec 79 pp 1, 32

[Editorial by Auguste Miremont: "Much to be Done"]

[Text] The meeting of the secretaries general of the Party came to an end last evening after three days of very fruitful work.

Just as in Korhogo last year, when the debates that followed the reports of the ministers of Health, Primary and Televisual Education, Public Works, Transportation, Construction and Urbanism were manifest proof of the maturity of the secretaries general, the Abidjan meeting was not disappointing.

One might have expected personal recriminations, stories of conflicts between authorities, exaggerated accounts of inconsequential situations. There was none of that.

Calmly, the secretaries general, in association for the second time with the prefects, ticked off their grievances and a long list of hopes for the populations they represent. They showed, if there was any need to, their profound knowledge of the terrain and their records. Which is reassuring, in several respects.

This responsible and pragmatic attitude indicates that our country can have confidence in its future.

In a troubled world that is prey to armed conflict, delivered up to the egoistic interests of nations, in which the weakest has hardly a chance of surviving, this close collaboration between our political and regional administrative authorities to point out the--inevitable--shortcomings in our development, this effective complementarity in the common struggle to make the Ivorian man bloom, are indicative of our maturity; of our sense of the national reality; of the lessons learned from the model represented by President Houphouet-Boigny; of the Party's strength. For no demonstration of opposition, no vague desire to argue with the ideals of the PDCI-RDA occurred during the work at Abidjan.

A gathering of men and women around common and precise objectives, our Party still preserves its power to attract and its popular impact, despite a small number of "puny coteries" of intellectuals enamored of foreign ideologies and filled with wonder at multipartism experiments in Africa which, all things considered, have brought nothing in those countries that chose to live them except verbal confrontations and suspicions that have distracted the populations--torn between various options--from their daily tasks.

Here, we have something else to do. To be aware of the demands of a social and economic nature presented by the secretaries general is enough to be convinced. Here, they are demanding socio-economic infrastructures or agro-industrial complexes to check the rural exodus, regional hospitals, technical high schools, adequate administrative infrastructures. There, they are demanding modern housing, paved roads, higher coffee, cocoa and cotton prices. There again, they are hoping for a visit from the chief of state and for that they are suggesting that the anniversary of independence be celebrated in the region. They also complain of the rarity of ministerial visits or the nonexistence of television, of the payment required by the state organizations for seed and fertilizer distributed to the peasants, or the lack of outlets offered for bananas. To say nothing of cashews and mangoes, which have not been as profitable as it was hoped they would be. They are also telling of electrification and water storage problems. They are formulating demands for installation of a customs station, centers for marketing products, drilling of wells, etc., etc. And to mark the understanding that exists between leaders, one is demanding a vehicle for his subprefect who has none, and makes his rounds on foot.

The concerns are many, as may be seen. But, as President Houphouet recognizes, "The more a country develops, the more serious problems it poses for its leaders."

Socio-economic problems, each citizen and each region wanting, justifiedly, to benefit from the achievements and the development. Political problems, the populations having to be unceasingly motivated to bring their total adherence to governmental efforts; and these populations are also formulating more demands--more freedom of expression and a more open choice of leaders.

An observation that our leaders, in tune with their people, have not failed to make for a long time. A year ago in Korhogo, did not the chief of state recommend to the secretaries general, as he has just now done again, that they make more use of cooperation, that they explain continually, and seek effective collaboration with the administrative authorities? Did not the secretary general of the Party advise that work be considered a national duty and that a "citizen's code of ethics" be established to which every Ivorian would refer--especially the regional leaders of the PDCI-RDA, so they could set an example? The example of the leader and the professional who know how to listen, to appreciate, to understand; of the leader and professional attentive to the needs of their countrymen, of the leader and professional integrated, competent, strict in their management and respectful of the public.

"To think is easy, to act is hard." Does the more realistic behavior of the secretaries general of the PDCI, who are concerned these days with regional and national development, indicate a better frame of mind, conforming to the recommendations by the Party's high dignitaries?

"Nothing has been done as long as there is much to be done," said President Houphouet. By means of the many demands of their populations, the secretaries general themselves are proving that. And they now know, as do all Ivorians, because they heard the message of the chief of state and the report of the secretary general of the Party, what is expected of them in order to win the battle for economic independence: dialog, unfailing collaboration, unfailing professional conscience, effective solidarity.

8946

CSO: 4400

**GUIDELINES NEEDED 'TO KEEP JOURNALISTS UNDER CONTROL'**

Monrovia THE LIBERIAN AGE in English 11 Jan 80 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

**IF THE PROLIFERATION** of newspapers in a community is a correct pointer to the unlettered practice and tolerance of press freedom in a country then we can safely rejoice that the year 1979 indicated a very healthy trend in that direction in Liberia.

**DURING THE LAST** two years we have seen more newspapers blossoming in this country than at anytime in its 133 year history; we saw also a large measure of free expression and tolerance; we saw the press wage unrelenting struggle against oppression, corruption and social injustice. And again we say that if this points to press freedom in our society then we rejoice.

**BUT ALONG** with the proliferation of newspapers and a growing interest in the news media, we are disturbed by some of the unscrupulous elements who have infiltrated the ranks posing as journalists when they are nothing but black-mailers and unprincipled individuals out to make a fast buck at the sacrifice of the honour of our profession.



**NOT TOO LONG AGO** one newspaper ran a front-page editorial entitled: "Is the Fight Against Corruption Real?" and it went on to vow that it would continue that fight on matter what. We find ourselves ally to that paper, but if we must do battle, we must first take an introspective look at ourselves and cleanse from our midst those corrupt elements who are now turning the profession into a euphemism for blackmailers.

**JUST THIS WEEK** a reputable establishment in our community reported that two journalists took a damaging article to the Manager and asking the Management to pay them in order to have the article stopped. It is a legal axiom that he who goes into a court of equity must do so with clean hands. If journalists must battle the ills of our society, then we must first clothe ourselves with that degree of **INTEGRITY** and honesty which will give credibility to our profession and the contents of our papers.

**THE PRESIDENT** of this nation has dubbed this year a Year of Industry and Integrity. Journalists must be industrious by digging out news, facts and making in-depth study of the problems facing our society. We must come out with constructive solutions, but by resorting to the criminal behaviour of blackmailing individuals and managements, we are simply proliferating the ills of our society by practicing deception and becoming greatly accomplices.

**IT IS THE DUTY** of every editor to weed out of his ranks those judases within our midst. It is equally the supreme responsibility of the Press Union of Liberia to become more vigilant and together with the Ministry of Information to institute some guidelines to keep these journalists under control.

**PRESS FREEDOM** is different from press abuse, just as moderation is not the same as prostitution. Let us not prostitute our profession.

## CRUDE OIL PRICE INCREASE 'ECONOMICALLY UNCOMFORTABLE'

Monrovia THE LIBERIAN AGE in English 11 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

**THE CONTINUING** increase in the price of crude oil has been described by the Commerce Ministry as "economically very uncomfortable" in Liberia.

However, the Ministry said the government is doing everything possible to reduce the adverse economic effect the continuing increase in the price of petroleum is exerting on the Liberian public.

The public is therefore advised to use petroleum wisely, conserve as much energy as is possible, observe speed limits, put on lights at homes, offices, etc. only when necessary, turn off air conditioners when not in use and apply any technique that will reduce energy consumption. The following is the statement issued by

the Commerce Ministry.

In December of 1979 the OPEC Countries again increased the price of crude oil from \$21.35 to \$28.00 per barrel. This was a 30% increase. Some OPEC Countries unilaterally decided to increase their crude oil prices even higher than other Oil Producing Countries.

Liberia does not produce oil and has to purchase crude oil from oil producing countries at arbitrary prices established by oil producing countries. There is usually no special treatment for countries buying oil. A country has to pay for the crude oil at the producer's price which is sometimes retroactive or do not get oil at all.

Presently, Liberia purchases crude oil from Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is one of the largest producers of oil but has been moderate in pricing its crude oil when compared to other oil producing countries. Nevertheless, the Liberian economy is very sensitive even to the so-called moderate increases; and, there is very little that Government can do to offset the effect of the continuous increase. We continue to reduce profit margins to businessmen in order that the financial burden to consumers may be lessened. Businessmen complain that official price margins are too low to induce and stimulate expanded business activity which would in turn develop commerce.

The situation created by the continuing increase in the price of crude oil, therefore, is economically very uncomfortable.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Transportation continues to assure the Liberian public that prices of essential commodities shall continue to be made as reasonable as possible. In the case of petroleum, a sample of price of petroleum in six West African Countries showed the lowest price at \$2.25 per gallon. A West African Country that produces oil sells a gallon of oil for just under \$3.00.

CSO: 4420

## POWER PLANT EXTENSION OPENED, LEC EXPANSION PLANS NOTED

Monrovia THE LIBERIAN AGE in English 11 Jan 80 p 11

[Text]

FULL electrical current was switched on officially by President Tolbert on Tuesday in a \$31.55 million diesel generation during the dedicatory and Commissioning Ceremony of the Liberia Electricity Corporation's Fourth Power Project on Bushrod Island thereby putting more than a quarter of a million light bulbs into operation in the country.

The new Bushrod Power Plant Extension is said to have a capacity of approximately 40 mega watts with three 14 mega watts low speed diesel engines and will transmit electrical current to Gbarnga, Robertsport, Free Zone and the Matadi Housing Unit in Sinkor.

During the dedicatory ceremony, President Tolbert said that government is determined to bring cheaper and sufficient electricity to all the people of Liberia. He said that the power plant will be able to provide 60 times the amount of power that was generated 40 years ago when electricity first came to Liberia.

Earlier, LEC's Sam Barnett told the President and the gathering that his corporation will seriously cope with the rising need for power and that he saw the fourth power project as one of his most important steps taken to meet power requirement of the country.

He however assured the President that the proposed St. Paul River Basin Hydro Electric Project when it becomes operational will be highly upgraded to boost power sup-



plies throughout the country and pleaded to the general public to meet their obligation in order to enable the corporation to in turn meet up with its obligations to the Liberian people.

The LEC Boss said that at the end of November, 1977, the government and the Liberia Electricity Corporation awarded a contract to Motor Columbus Consulting Engineers Inc. of Baden, Switzerland for performing a study for the proposed Bushrod Island Power Plant Extension. They noted that the terms of reference were established by LEC in collaboration with the World Bank (IBRD). From the terms of reference, Motor Columbus recommended an additional capacity of approximately 40 MW which must come in line party at the begging of 1979, and partly in 1980. It was believed that with the help of this additional capacity, it would be possible to meet demand until the completion date of the proposed St. Paul Basin Hydro Development.

After the investigation of alternative plant programs, it was decided that three 14 MW low speed diesel engines be installed, which would form the nucleus of the thermal generating units.

The Bushrod Power Extension consists of seven components including: a 26 MW extension of generating capacity, service connection and arrangements for interior wiring for about 5,000 urban poor, staff training facilities training center and employment of instructors.

Among those the ceremony were, Vice President Warner, Speaker of the House Richard Henrick, Deputy Local Government Minister Edward David, and Dr. Togba Nah Tipoteh, who received the key from the Consultants and presented it to LEC Managing Director, Sam Burnette.

**BRIEFS**

**SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME IMPLEMENTATION**—On January 1, 1980, the President of Liberia, Dr. William R. Tolbert, Jr., inaugurated the National Social Security and Welfare Scheme which, for the first time brings social insurance and social protection to the working population in Liberia in both Government and the private sector. Actual implementation of the scheme will commence February 1, 1980. All records and administrative details, etc. pertaining to registration and actual functioning of the scheme are to be finalized before February 1, 1980. [Excerpt] [Monrovia THE LIBERIAN AGE in English 11 Jan 80 pp 4, 5]

CSO: 4420

PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATES SURVEY SUCCESSES, FAILURES

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Jan 80 p 2

[Excerpt] The extended meeting of the provincial government, the purpose of which was to describe the activities carried out by the provincial directorates during 1979, through reports given by the various leaders, based on the principle of a rendering of accounts, concluded recently in Nampula.

From this endeavor, it was learned that, during 1979, the province made progress in several sectors of activity, thanks to the great effort expended by the workers in the various sectors. In this regard the governor of Nampula stated: "The standing that we have attained in our province reflects in an accurate manner the massive, conscious participation of the population in the tasks of national reconstruction."

Also commenting on the work accomplished last year, Daniel Mbanze added that the reports submitted at that meeting showed that 1979 was, in fact, a year of consolidation for our conquests, thanks to the population's involvement.

He continued: "There were failures which were due to factors of a material and organizational nature, and a lack of cadres both in quantity and quality, among other difficulties. The tropical depression 'Angela' was not dissociated from this situation."

At that meeting, limitations were discovered which existed throughout last year. Most of the accounts given by the various provincial directors cited the absence of coordination and relations among the entities. They also mentioned difficulties associated with the lack of transportation, defective organization of supplies to the population and streets in a poor state of repair, especially those affording access to the productive sectors, among others.

2909

CSO: 4400

## BASIC BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION COURSES PROCEEDING APACE

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 15 Jan 80 p 2

[Excerpt] This coming March, the second and final phase of the first course in business management sponsored by the Eduardo Mondlane University will begin. Workers from all parts of the country selected in the enterprises under the jurisdiction of the economic ministries will participate in it.

In this final phase, 28 new members will be included, in addition to the 75 selected for the first phase of this course, which started in September of last year. The inclusion of the new candidates is aimed at making it possible to meet the overall goal, calling for the training of 100 managers for enterprises.

In view of the intensity and complexity of this last phase, the members to be included must not only have a sixth grade education as a minimum, but also good political and moral conduct and a minimal experience in management, proven by the capacity and qualities acquired while holding the position.

The course, which is a first experience for UEM [Eduardo Mondlane University] in the training of medical cadres in the country among workers with a minimum of a sixth grade education, is intended to give technical and political training to the Mozambican worker (providing him with a combination of knowledge and ability that will enable him to know and understand essential aspects of the operation of an enterprise) to win the exciting battle of production.

At the conclusion of the course, planned for December of this year, the new managers will become affiliated with production units in their place of origin; and, with a view toward affording a constantly increased understanding of business affairs, the Eduardo Mondlane University, through the School of Economics (which is responsible for the guidance in this course) will, in accordance with the accomplishment of each individual, authorize the continuation of the studies in that institution of higher learning.

### The Nature of This Phase

In view of the need to provide the new managers of enterprises with scientific knowledge that will enable them to make a correct analogy between the



natural phenomena which determine the development of the individual and that of science in general, historical and dialectical materialism will be one of the main courses in this second phase. Concurrently, and with a view toward affording an overall insight into economic matters on the national and international levels, there will be a thorough study of geography and world history, as well as other timely subjects related to national and international economic policy.

It was noted that the course is not intended to prepare individuals who, at the conclusion of it, must necessarily be assigned to the management of enterprises, but rather individuals who, provided with technical information essential to the administration of an enterprise, will contribute and intervene in matters associated with planning, statistics, economics and other areas.

2909

CS0: 4400

PROVINCIAL DEPUTY ON GAZA POOR FOOD SUPPLY

Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 30 Dec 79 p 42

[Excerpt] During a break in the Fifth Session of the People's Assembly, we approached some of the deputies residing in the provinces of Gaza, Manica and Niassa, whom we questioned about supplies.

TEMPO: What is the status of supplies in Gaza Province?

Noe Faftine: The status of supplies in Gaza Province is not yet completely normal; we have a shortage of products of prime necessity. At present, we are giving priority to the commercial systems in the rural areas, and we are creating consumer cooperatives and People's Stores so as to supply the areas which have no establishment for selling those products.

TEMPO: How is production progressing in the province?

Noe Faftine: The production has been carried out in the agricultural cooperatives, collective farms, state enterprises and family farms. We have had problems with the cooperatives, because there are some workers who do not understand the need for creating them, despite the fact that their goal is to improve our lives and combat hunger in our country.

TEMPO: What other problems have you had?

Noe Faftine: The greatest difficulties are related to the preparation of the soil, owing to the lack of machinery and accessories for this sector. We also have a shortage of spare parts for agricultural machines.

TEMPO: How has the removal of the products been?

Noe Faftine: On the provincial level, a committee was formed, associated with the Ministry of Domestic Trade, to support us in the transportation of agricultural products. In certain areas, we have had to blaze trails in order to have room to pass. At present, the situation has become normal.

2909

CSO: 4401

## DISPERSION OF POWER AFFECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Jan 80 p 2

[Text] Pemba--In compliance with instructions emanating from the provincial government, executive councils have now been created in various communal villages in Cabo Delgado Province. Simultaneously, an increased affiliation with the cooperative movement, consolidating the cooperatives already in existence, is gradually implementing the principle that each rural community can only have the statute of a communal village when socialist economic ownership exists in it.

Reports reaching our representatives in Pemba disclose that the provisional executive councils are to be established in all the villages in the district of Mecufi, to replace the former administrations, until the final entities go into operation in the near future.

The same reports indicate that, at a ceremony founding that entity in the village of Sassalane, the first secretary of the party and administrator of the district stated that this measure is aimed at eliminating the causes of the dispersion of power that has become evident in the rural communities, underlying the current problems facing the villages.

That official also cited the need for all the population to become involved in the cooperatives that exist in Sassalane, claiming, in this regard, that those collective production units must be the property of the community.

It should be recalled that this matter of integrating the population into the cooperatives has occurred as a response to the principle that a village can only have the statute of a communal village when socialist economic ownership exists in it.

## Montepuez

Moreover, the secretary of the district committee for the organization of the party in Montepuez recently ordered a meeting with the dynamizing group of the locality of Meza, with which he discussed and made a thorough analysis of that major instruction aimed at eliminating one of the causes hampering the development of the communal villages: the lack of institutionalized power.

The individual in charge of the government in the locality of Meloco, in the same district, also made a recent tour of five villages in which he gave instructions for work on the creation of provisional executive councils.

In Namuno, members of the mass democratic organizations and the People's Militias divided into brigades are touring several villages in the district, in order to dynamize the process, and to engage in a widespread political effort.

In addition to the meetings for the analysis and explanation of the tasks of each of the organizations, the OJM [Mozambique Youth Organization], the OMM [Organization of Mozambique Women] and the People's Militias, the brigades are working basically on the determination of tasks to be performed by the aforementioned entities, and the deadlines to be met.

In the district of Chiure, the district official in charge of People's Vigilance Groups met a few days ago with the heads of those entities on the village level, to analyze their activity after the holding of the district seminar of the Vigilance Groups.

2909

CSO: 4400



## WOOD SECTOR SURVEYED, SPECULATION ALLEGED

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Jan 80 p 2

[Excerpts] Few parts of the world possess woods which evoke such an enthusiastic demand on the market as those in our country. Among those which have lent us an extensive role in this regard we might mention "chanfuta," "missassa," "umbila" and the black wood (ebony). They are, in fact, the object of a rush for guaranteeing import contracts, which inevitably provide fabulous profits. In Europe, for example, there are powerful entities or millionaires who pride themselves in having as an indisputable specification in the contracts for their beautiful homes or splendid palaces flooring made of Mozambican wood, and sections decorated with "umbila," ebony or "chanfuta" from our country. And they do not haggle over prices with such imports.

We have already stated in previous articles that wood is among our leading resources. Nevertheless, at the present time there is an entirely disorganized sector, and a combination of maneuvers, at times subtle and at times brazen, accompanied by a clever arrangement of sabotage, which has continued until recently. In short, we have an industry submerged in chaos; and seldom has the concern for control and organization disencumbered it of the old systems wherein one might say that there was virtually a "Mafia," with small and great "capos," which criminally defrauded us of many hundreds of thousands of contos in foreign exchange and, on the other hand, upon being beset by the fire of the revolution, left the chaos, the machines exposed to the elements and to damage, the threat of a stoppage in scores of sawmills, and thousands of square meters which contained an abundance of the best woods in our possession burned.

Little by little, however, the situation began to assume different features. Although it has yet to be organized, the wood, sawing and reforestation sector is a great concern of our government, specifically of the Ministry of Agriculture. Hence, a general survey is being made of the situation in the country, affecting mainly Sofala, Inhambane, Manica and Niassa, areas with a potential which surpasses our imagination.

Simultaneously, campaigns are under way to make the population aware, so that we may avoid at all costs the burning which, in the past killed millions of trees which, as a whole, constituted real plant gold or diamond mines.

Another important aspect is the planting of millions of eucalyptus trees, a noble, fragrant and vigorous tree. In Niassa, Maputo and Manica, and recently in Sofala, large areas have been or will be planted with those trees, the goal being that they would be situated on the outskirts of the capitals, providing the wood material so much in demand by the population.

In concluding this notation, we would like to call attention to a point related to the importance of our wood, especially of the kinds which we mentioned at the beginning of this article, abroad. It is the speculation which certain international concession-holders (some of whom left Mozambique recently) engaged in, in the market system, for the purpose of sabotaging the value of certain types of products. Some of them, who have now settled in Brazil, with ramifications as far as Africa, particularly the Ivory Coast, are "specialists" in the market game and in the "bluffs" on the price lists, who later, invariably and with assurance, put forth their products (of quality inferior to ours) all over the world.

In this regard, it is important for us to start becoming informed in this area on the matter, or the many matters relating to wood, especially the kinds which unquestionably constitute a great source of national wealth. To know the enemy's terrain, his maneuvers and his strategy in the realm of commerce is not a euphemism in any period, particularly during a time of revolution. On the contrary, it is our best means of defense against the profiteers with long experience who come and go, always starving, from the great base known as imperialism.

The fact is that, in the area of wood or other resources of our country, the international capitalists and their apprentices in seduction lack neither the desire, the money nor the room for maneuvering to harm us.

For some time, we have not remained impassive, and we are sure that, with the passage of time, we shall do less buying of pigs in a poke.

2909

CSO: 4400

# STEEL BLADE FACTORY IDLE FOR LACK OF FOREIGN TECHNICAL AID

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Jan 80 pp 3, 6

[Excerpt] A total of 5 million unfinished (raw material) steel razor blades, in other words, half of the volume needed for domestic consumption of that product, have been waiting for their final processing since 1978. This amount of raw material, which runs the risk of being attacked by rust, with all the consequences that could result from the latter, is located in the warehouses of SOPOLAM [Portuguese Blade Company], the only firm in the country specializing in the manufacture of razor blades.

According to a spokesman for the company, the fundamental cause of this situation, which has been reflected in a shortage of razor blades in the country since 1977, lies mainly in the "lack of constant technical assistance to the factory."

At the present time, the factory in question is at a standstill, which has existed since last month (after having attempted to operate for nearly a month), owing to the lack of a special gas used to temper the blades. For the aforementioned reasons, SOPOLAM never managed to run more than a month, a fact which has prevented its slight production from having any effect on the market. This has been the case since 1977.

Specializing in the manufacture of carbon steel blades and those of the stainless type, SOPOLAM, with its headquarters in Maputo, is a firm which has been engaged in its activity since the beginning of the 1970's. coming to a halt in March 1977 with the departure of the last factory technician. This standstill lasted until December 1978, when the factory in question resumed operations, upon the arrival of a new factory technician.

However, owing to the deterioration of some parts as a result of the lack of constant technical assistance, the razor blade plant underwent another shutdown in February 1979. This new stoppage lasted until December of the same year, at which time SOPOLAM tried to resume its work; but, in less than a month, it closed again, and has been out of commission up until now.

The SOPOLAM representative was emphatic in stating: "Even operating under the present conditions, as we have always attempted to do, we have been unsuccessful in placing virtually any of our product on the market, because the waste of raw materials during the production process has been about 70 percent, owing to the lack of proper technical assistance."

In fact, despite the various attempts to put the plant into operation, the results accrued have not been satisfactory; and this is why there is still a lack of blades on the domestic market.

When in complete operation, SOPOLAM, which is equipped with modern machinery, could produce nearly 2.5 million blades per month (working on two shifts per day).

This rate would allow for a satisfactory domestic supply, since the annual consumption has been estimated at nearly 10 million razor blades.

The remainder of the product would be exported to some neighboring countries, and there have already been some orders submitted; which means, from an economic standpoint, that the factory would be in a position to meet the cost of purchasing raw materials by exporting its surpluses.

#### Technical Assistance Contingent on the Signing of a Contract

As we learned from the SOPOLAM administration, the matter of the technical assistance to the factory (the main reason for its failure to operate normally) apparently lies in the signing of a contract with a foreign firm specializing in the manufacture of razor blades.

The signing of this contract, which has been awaiting the decision of the competent entities since May of last year, would result in technical assistance and the training of personnel. This contract would entail an annual payment by SOPOLAM of nearly 120 contos in foreign currency.

Meanwhile, in view of the effects of this situation which have lasted a considerable amount of time, we learned that competent entities are currently engaged in seeking a proper solution.

2909

CSO: 4400



## INDUSTRIAL DECENTRALIZATION HELPED BY FUTURE SHOE FACTORIES

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 14 Jan 80 p 1

[Text] For the purpose of increasing the industrial capacity for shoe manufacture in the country, the National Directorate of Light Industry is exploring the possibility of creating two more factories in this branch of industry. If those units were formed, they would manufacture plastic and canvas shoes, primarily to supply the population in the rural areas.

A source from that Directorate said that the study began some time ago, and that an effort was made to analyze the present status of the sector, so as to allow for future planning.

The same source also said that one of the goals sought with the creation of these factories is to enable each child to have two pairs of shoes, and each adult one pair, at least on a yearly basis.

These factories would be built in the northern parts of the country, which were neglected by the colonialists.

## Focusing Attention on the Needs of the Rural Areas

A member of the studies department of the National Directorate of Light Industry (DNIL) stressed the fact that the plans to build these factories outside of the capital did not occur by chance. The idea is to decentralize the crowding of industrial units in the large cities.

Furthermore, with the plants built in the rural area, where the majority of people who need this type of footwear reside, it will be possible to use local manpower; in addition to other factors which will give an impetus to the socioeconomic development of the rural areas.

It should be noted that, while the capacity for production of canvas and plastic shoes is very low in comparison with the needs of the majority of the population, the colonial investments in this industry were made to create factories producing leather shoes, which is why the latter subsector is meeting the country's present needs.

It is also in this context that many of the 17 firms existing in the industry in this country, namely, those in the provinces of Zambezia, Sofala and Maputo, are engaged in the manufacture of leather shoes, which are not within the reach of the farmers, owing to their cost and type of use.

2909

CSO: 4400

## MOZAMBIQUE

### BRIEFS

UN FOOD ASSISTANCE--The United Nations World Food Program has just approved assistance in the form of food for Mozambique, with a total value of nearly 360,000 contos, as reported yesterday by the delegation from that international entity in Maputo. Part of this aid will be used to partially offset the damage caused by the long period of drought, which hit the southern part of the country last year. A total of 5,850 tons of food will be delivered for this emergency assistance. Recently, a document was signed in the Mozambican capital establishing the mechanisms for the reception and distribution of that food. The same source revealed that a plan for food assistance to 90,000 children attending boarding schools and centers located in all of the nation's provinces has also been approved and is being implemented. This plan, which began in November of last year, will continue for 2 years, and calls for the donation of 7,095 tons of food, consisting of cornmeal, vegetable oil, powdered milk and canned fish, among other types of food, with a total value of nearly 300,000 contos. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 15 Jan 80 p 1] 2909

CSO: 4400

# NNF-SWAPO D GROUP RELEASES DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 22 Jan 80 p 1

[Text]

**WINDHOEK:** The new party resulting from a merger between the two Black Nationalist political organisations here, the Namibia National Front and the Swapo Democrats, would cooperate with other "liberation movements" and international organisations to achieve its objective, according to the new party's draft constitution.

The NNF, an umbrella organisation for six political groups in SWA, and the Swapo Democrats, a breakaway party from Swapo, announced here earlier that they would merge.

A new party would be established at a national congress to be held in April.

The draft constitution for the new party was released to Sapa here last night.

The party's aims and constitution were contained in a 20-page document.

In the preamble to the constitution, the founders of the new party said they believed the new party could be instrumental in bringing about the reconciliation and cooperation of all Southwesterners.

"We can unite our people and lead them to freedom and independence.

"We, therefore, establish a single, democratic party which shall serve as the vanguard of the Namibian liberation movement," the document said.

When the merger was announced earlier this month, NNF and Swapo-D leaders said a new name would be chosen at the general congress of the new party.

The document said the new party would have its headquarters in Windhoek and its flag would consist of broad blue, red and green bands with a narrow yellow band between.

A clenched black fist would be superimposed in the centre.

In a section dealing with the aims and objectives of the new party, the document stated that the party would cooperate with "other progressive liberation movements and international organisations."

The purpose of the cooperation would be to abolish injustice and inequality, colonialism, imperialism, racism and other forms of oppression among nations, races and peoples, and to support all actions for genuine international peace and security."

The new party would "struggle relentlessly to achieve and maintain independence for the people of our country, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, colour, creed, religion, status or sex."

It would strive to achieve and maintain a sovereign, independent and democratic Republic of Namibia, free from all foreign domination.

It would "unite all the people of Namibia, now living under South African colonial rule, into one single mass organisation which will represent the Namibian people and lead them in the struggle for national liberation and independence."

The new party would, according to the constitution, also fight for national unity and the integration of the SWA people into a single nation.

Other aims of the party were to:

- Fight for education, moral, social, cultural and economic advancement of the people of SWA.

- Work for "a speedy reconstruction of a better Namibia as a whole in which all the people shall have the right to live and govern themselves as free people."

- "Maintain contact, exchange views and cooperate with organisations and individuals, dedicated as we are to the total emancipation and reconstruction of Namibia."

- Fight for and defend the territorial integrity of SWA as a whole.

- And to strive to "regain the port of Walvis Bay and the islands off the coast into the territorial boundaries of Namibia." — Sapa



# MUDGE REPORTED ACCUSING GAROEB OF DOUBLE TALK

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 22 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

MR Dirk Mudge, chairman of the DTA accused Mr Justus Garoeb, president of the NNF and chairman of the Damara Council of trying to hunt with the fox and run with the hounds.

In the same breath he defends ethnicity as well as criticises it, said Mr Mudge in a statement yesterday.

Mr Mudge was replying to a statement issued by Mr Garoeb, in which he attacked Mr Mudge and DTA policy describing the concept of ethnicity as something "evil".

He said Mr Garoeb had issued the statement in his capacity as Senior Headman of the Damaras, president of the NNF and chairman of the Damara Council.

"It seems to me", he said, "as if we are dealing with a traditional Damara leader."

Mr Mudge said that he would have placed far greater value on the statement if Mr Garoeb would stop his double talk.

"On the one hand he defends his ethnicity, and on the

other hand he criticises it under the smokescreen that ethnicity must not be over exaggerated, he said.

Mr Mudge denied that the DTA placed too much emphasis on ethnicity.

He said that the DTA did not want to force any population group to institute a representative authority, and also did not want to force any individual to become classified as a member of a population group.

He added that the DTA would to take away the right of any population group to institute a representative authority, and also did not want to make it impossible for any person to retain his identity. The DTA stood further for a unified nation which recognised the different population groups.

The DTA swear, he said, that it will succeed in bringing all the population groups together under one political organisation, which was more than Mr Garoeb could say, he added.

## NAMIBIA

### BRIEFS

JUSTICE TRANSFERRED TO AG--The South West African/Namibian Department of Justice has been transferred from Pretoria to the Administrator-General, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, in Windhoek. Die Burger reports Mr H J Taljaard, formerly deputy secretary in Pretoria, was appointed director of the Directorate of Justice earlier this month. [Text] [Pretoria SOUTH AFRICAN DIGEST in English 11 Jan 80 p 6]

DAMARA GENERAL ELECTION--A general election will be held by the Damara people within the next two years, according to their Chief Mr Engelhardt Christy. He said that a general election would be held after the present term of the Damara Authority came to an end. This would also put an end to the question of which leaders were genuinely representative of the Damara people. Mr Christy had decided on the matter after he had received repeated requests from the Damara Council to have an election, which would "eliminate unwanted elements." He added that his party--SWAPDUP--would be prepared to fight for an election for the Damara people. [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 22 Jan 80 p 4]

CSO: 4420

AFGHANISTAN LESSON: NEED FOR REGIONAL DEFENSE

'DAILY TIMES' Comment

Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 10 Jan 80 p 3

[Editorial: "Going to Afghanistan"]

[Text]

**T**HERE is an unwritten tradition of editorial writing at this newspaper which holds that in dull times, or when more directly relevant topics are too controversial, you "go to Afghanistan," that country being the remotest point of the globe to which, it is assumed, the Nigerian imagination can transport itself.

But recent events in Afghanistan now demand that we locate our never-never land elsewhere. Afghanistan may be physically distant terrain, but the implications of its current tragedy are much too grave and much too close for our comfort.

It is not the first time that the Russians have invaded another less powerful country, nor is it likely to be the last. The inexorable logic of great-power politics is that there is no ethical standard of international relations which powerful nations are obliged to respect. China and the United States may now rage and fume against the Soviet Union; but that is a temporary and fragile virtue which we in Nigeria recognise for what it is.

Vietnam is not exactly a helpless or innocent nation. But China did invade it. Before that, the United States did find itself in Vietnam, and by the final, belated admission of its own people, had no business being there. In more recent times, France has pursued a policy toward Africa so cynical and arrogant that no African nation seems immune from its depredations. And even now, while President Carter is busy denouncing the Soviet Union, the United States may yet discover a plausible enough justification for invading Iran.

There is, then, hardly any point wasting words on the morality of the matter. Denouncing the Soviet Union may be psychologically cleansing. But it does not minimise the predicament of powerless nations. What is required, therefore, is that we draw the essential conclusion from Afghanistan's fate, and translate those conclusions into appropriate action.

Nigeria, like Afghanistan, is militarily weak. But unlike Afghanistan, Nigeria does have actual and potential resources that cannot fail to inspire the greed and malice of both East and West. In almost all circumstances, invasion is an extreme choice. Powerful nations need not opt for it, where less violent means will achieve the same goals. It is always more prudent, therefore, to be clear about the unchanging motive, and to assume that its manifestations are infinite.

Political and economic stability within our borders is the practical aspect of vigilance. A credible military strength tends to discourage the more gratuitous forms of subversion. But ultimately the safety of Nigeria is closely tied to the political, military and economic stability of the West African region, and beyond that, of the continent itself.

Unfortunately, proposals for regional and continental defence tend to bog down in eloquent platitudes. And until African nations come to recognise the advantage of a common defence, this nation owes it to itself to fortify and strengthen the unity of our peoples, and the power and patriotic resolve of our armed forces.

#### 'THE PUNCH' Comment

Ikeja THE PUNCH in English 12 Jan 80 p 5

[Editorial: "War Cry in the West"]

[Text]

THE Western world, led on by the USA, has been shrieking in the past two weeks over alleged invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union.

THESE same people who cheered Tanzanian troops into Uganda last year and are backing South African military violation of Zimbabwe now want the world to come to an end over the Afghanistan affair — even though Soviet forces were invited there by the Afghan government.

THIS hypocrisy is sheer nonsense. Nigeria and other progressive countries should expose it for what it is at the current United Nations debate.

SUDDENLY, Carter and Thatcher now see the Olympic Games as a political weapon. They are urging boycott of the Games in Moscow "to teach the Russians a lesson."

WHERE are the racist moralists who were at the throat of African nations when we pulled out of Montreal in 1976 over a more legitimate cause?

THE Western hysteria is nothing but a dangerous revival of the militant racial and political intolerance of the past which may yet shatter the relative peace in the world.



DIALOG WITH SOUTH AFRICA SUGGESTED

Lagos SUNDAY PUNCH in English 13 Jan 80 pp 1, 15

[Article by Eric Teniola]

[Text] Nigeria's former foreign minister, Senator Jaja Wachukwu wants Nigeria to establish relations with apartheid South Africa.

He said Nigeria should consider an urgent need to talk to the South African government.

Senator Wachukwu told me in an interview that Nigeria's current attitude to South Africa has contributed to the present plight of the black South Africans there.

He stated that maybe the plight of the black-South Africans might have improved by now if only Nigeria or some Africans had opened an avenue to talk to the South African government.

"You must understand that in life the most permanent thing is change so it is also in foreign affairs. You can't be intransigent on any issue," he declared.

Senator Wachukwu explained that however hostile a country maybe towards each other, they must have avenues for talks.

We hear Russia fighting China yet they have not closed their embassies neither has U.S. closed her embassy in Russia," he stated.

Senator Wachukwu pointed out that Nigeria's present attitude towards South African or even Israel had become obsolete.

"In our days we know how to handle things. You may say we of the first Republic failed, but our own era was golden, you may not believe it," he declared.

He said the way Nigeria has conducted her foreign affairs in the last ten years had been amusing to him. Yet, he said, some people had described Nigeria's foreign policy as dynamic.

## NIGERIA

### NNPC ANNOUNCED PRODUCTION FIGURES, NEW PRICES

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 15 Jan 80 p 1

[Article by G. Bamawo]

[Text] The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has now confirmed the new oil prices for its various crude which indicate an overall increase of about 13 percent on each crude. The new prices are effective as from December 17, 1979, till March 31, this year.

Dr I. C. Nwobodo, the Acting Public Affairs Officer, however said the corporation could decide to realign the prices of its crude depending on the market situation, should OPEC at its quarterly meeting fail to fix prices for member countries.

Brass Blend which formerly sold at \$26.27 B/d now sells at \$30 B/d while Bonny Light which sold at \$26.24 B/d now sells at \$29.97 B/d.

Qua Iboe which sold at \$26.25 B/d leaps to \$29.98 B/d while Escravos which was selling at \$26.14 B/d goes up to \$29.90 B/d.

Pennington, Forcados and Bonny medium are now \$29.90, \$29.80 and \$ 28.70 B/d respectively.

There will be usual price escalation of \$0.003 for each one-tenth degree API or below the stated gravity for each grade of oil with a cut-off point in respect of escalation at 40 degree API. Credit term still is 30 days from the bill of lading.

Oil production by six of the nine oil companies showed a decrease in November 1979, as compared with the same period in 1978, according to the Oil Producers Trade Section of the Lagos Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The three companies which increased production Gulf/NNPC, ELF/NNPC and Pan Ocean, for November 1979, recorded 345,976, 81,824 and 7,416 B/d respectively as against 345,422, 78,826 and 7,326 B/d in the same period in 1978.

Shell/NNPC which recorded the largest oil production had a decrease of 42,018 B/d. Its production for November 1979, was 1,250, 936 as compared with 1,292, 954 B/d for the same period in 1978.

AGIP/Phillips/NNPC, Mobil/NNPC produced 202,819 and 199,173 B/d for the period of November 1979 respectively as against 230,290 and 251,599 B/d for the same period in 1978.

The three remaining companies Texaco/NNPC, NNPC/Ashland and Tenneco/Mobil/Sumray recorded 49,875, 8,101 and 4,396, B/d respectively for the period November 1979, as against the same period in 1978.

Oil exports for November, 1979, dropped to 2,037,448 B/d as against 2,116,786 B/d for the same period in 1978.

There was however an increase of oil delivery to the refineries. Port-Harcourt and Warri refineries got 78,074 for November 1979, as against 64,074 in the same period in 1978.

CSO: 4420

## NIGERIA

### STATUS OF 19 NEW SHIP ORDERS REVIEWED

Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 15 Jan 80 p 1

[Article by Cyprian Agbor]

[Text] Sixteen of the 19 ships ordered by the Nigerian National Shipping Line (NNSL) have been launched. The remaining three are to be launched in South Korea this week, sources within the company told the Business Times last week.

Under the N 176 million contract awarded in August 1977, the Hyundai Shipping and Heavy Industries Limited of Korea was to build 11 multipurpose cargo ships at a total cost of N91 million, while the Brodogradistice Split of Yugoslavia was to build eight multipurpose Combo vessels at N85 million.

All the ships were to be delivered by the end of last year. But as at last week, according to the source, only 12 had actually been delivered, although 16 had been launched.

Those already launched are the eight being built at the Split Shipyard, and eight of the eleven being built by Hyundai.

However, all the eight launched at the Hyundai Shipyard are said to have been already delivered, while only four of the eight launched at Split Shipyard have been delivered.

With the twelve already delivered, the NNSL now has a fleet of 19 ships. The national carrier had earlier reduced its fleet from 15 to seven ships by selling the over-age ships that had made up the majority of its fleet.

With its 19 ships, NNSL, is now carrying about 11.5 percent of Nigeria's total external trade, up from the former 8 percent, according to President Shehu Shagari at his world press conference last week.

The delivery of all the new ships should increase the lines fleet to 26 ships as well as its share of Nigeria's total external trade.

CSO: 4420



BRIEFS

**REVENUE ALLOCATION SUGGESTION**--A governor yesterday spoke of the dangers inherent in using population as a factor for revenue allocation. And he said it should be dropped. Chief Bisi Onabanjo, Ogun State, told the Okigbo Commission that it was unfair to use population as a factor because there were no reliable census figures in the country. And he was emphatic that there could not be one if population remained a yardstick for sharing the national cake. "It is the general tendency to inflate the figures in a desire to get the highest from revenue allocation." Dr Pius Okigbo, whose commission had its second sitting in Abeokuta yesterday, had led his team on a visit to the Governor's office. The commission on revenue allocation is on a country-wide tour, Ogun State being its first port of call. Governor Onabanjo believed that revenue should be allocated purely on need and pace of development. [Excerpt] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 11 Jan 80 p 1]

**NIGERIANIZATION OF BANK BOARDS**--Negotiations have been concluded with foreign partners in 11 leading commercial banks in which the Federal Government has substantial shareholding to ensure that at least 50 percent of executive director positions in their establishments are filled by Nigerians. This was announced at a press briefing in Lagos yesterday by a minister of state in the ministry of finance, Alhaji Ali Baba. [Excerpt] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 18 Jan 80 p 2]

**PROBE OF NNPC**--The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) is to be probed by a special committee of the House of Representatives over the loss of N2.8 billion on its revenue. The mover of the motion Mr Dagogo Princewill (NPN Degema I, Rivers State) said he wanted the House to view the motion as a national issue. Mr Princewill said the loss of N2.8 billion represented 28-29 percent of our total annual of revenue. He said that his investigations revealed that the corporation's accounting personnel were hopelessly inadequate as it had only four qualified chartered accountants, when it needed at least 20. [Excerpts] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 17 Jan 80 p 5]

**MINERAL RESOURCES PROSPECTING**--The Federal Government has invited foreign technical experts to submit proposals for the exploration of the country's mineral resources. The Minister of Mines and Power, Alhaji Mohammed Hassan

announced this in Lagos. Such resources include uranium, gold, coal lead, zinc, copper and salt discovered in some parts of the country. Alhaji Mohammed made this known while briefing newsmen on mining operations in the country. He said that so far, his ministry had received some applications on the proposals from experts in the United States, Sweden and Italy, after which, the actual study of the proposals would be made by experts in his ministry. Alhaji Mohammed said that already, a French company had started work on the possibility of exploring uranium in partnership with the Nigerian Uranium Mining Company. [Excerpt] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 17 Jan 80 p 24]

ECOWAS DIRECTORY--At the State House, President Shagari received a special message from his Togolese counterpart, General G. Eyadema. The message was delivered by the Managing Director of the Agency Publicity and Public Relations Agency of Togo, Mr Ayikoe O. Ajavon. Mr Ajavon briefed the President on arrangements to improve communication and information facility in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Mr Ajavon said that Nigeria's political and economic progress is to the entire pride and benefit of Africa. President Shehu praised the efforts to produce a general directory of the ECOWAS and an introduction of information aimed at promoting understanding within the member nations of the community. [Excerpt] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 12 Jan 80 p 9]

EXTERNAL RESERVES STATUS--The Central Bank's holding of external reserve assets at the end of October 1979 was N2,841.9 million. This represented an increase of N225.3 million over the level for the previous month. According to the Central Bank's Return of Assets and Liabilities as on October 31, 1979, published in Lagos last week, the increase was entirely due to a rise in holdings of convertible currencies. This rose from 2445.74 million at the end of September to N2,671.03 million at the end of October. Gold holdings were unchanged at N18.10 million, as were I.M.F. Gold Tranche Position and Special Drawing Rights (SDR's) holdings at N71.17 million and N81.59 million respectively. The level of reserves at the end of October represented a sharp recovery of the account. At the end of December 1978, reserves had amounted to N1.23 billion, barely enough to pay for one and a half months imports. The level stagnated until April, but starting from May, dramatic growth took place. [Excerpt] [Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 15 Jan 80 p 1]

CEMENT SURPLUS--The Nigerian National Supply Company is saturated with cement. Before Christmas, the company had 10 shiploads of imported cement to the tune of 100,000 tonnes. The Company's Marketing Manager, Mr C.S. Audu told the Business Times last week that they are paying between 2000 and 3000 dollars demurrage per day for each ship, making a total of 30,000 dollars per day for this consignment. He said the NNSC became saturated with cement because of the slump in construction projects in the country and that they have therefore been forced to reduce the clearance price per tonne of cement from 65 to 56 naira. On the response of the buying price, Mr Audu said there had been some improvement in sales but hopes that the Government would soon start construction work again after reviewing contracts. This he said, would rectify the situation. [Excerpts] [Lagos BUSINESS TIMES in English 15 Jan 80 p 20]

PROPOSAL ON UNIVERSITIES--A motion to hand over universities to state governments was hotly debated in the Senate for three days and then adjourned until February 12. Professor Stephen Akintoye moved for adjournment when it became clear that almost every senator wanted to speak on the motion. It was on Tuesday that Professor Akintoye made the proposal that 12 of the 13 universities be transferred to state governments. He moved that only the University of Ibadan should continue to remain a federal institution. In the motion, Professor Akintoye called for the setting up of a technical university in the federal capital territory of Abuja. Professor Akintoye proposed that the Federal Government should grant money to the seven states which do not yet have universities to open their own. The states are Ondo, Niger, Gongola, Ogun, Imo, Bauchi and Benue. The Federal Government will be required to make yearly subventions to the universities, if the motion is passed. [Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 18 Jan 80 p 1]

CSO: 4420

## FLEUVE REGION DEPARTMENTS DIVIDED INTO RURAL COMMUNITIES

### Fleuve Region Administrative Reform

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 8 Jan 80 pp 1,5

[Article: "Three Departments Divided Into 28 Rural Communities"]

[Text] A special regional development committee under the presidency of the minister of state in charge of internal affairs, Mr Jean Collin, has approved the proposed division of the three Fleuve region departments into 28 rural communities.

At the same meeting, it was decided to enlarge the Dagana commune and to establish Richard-Toll as a full fledged commune to serve as a center for 7 villages and a total population of 11,041 inhabitants. After the meeting, Mr Jean Collin stated: "We should be conscious of having worked seriously and objectively, and of having made it possible to launch the rural communities of the Fleuve region on the date which we had set."

### Final Division Into Rural Communities

Saint-Louis (Senegalese Press Agency)--On Thursday 3 January, in the government's conference room, Mr Jean Collin, minister of state in charge of internal affairs, presided over a special regional development committee meeting devoted to the implementation of the territorial and local reform in the Fleuve region.

The purpose of the meeting was to ratify the proposals made by the Matam, Podor and Dagana departmental development committees concerning the proposed division into rural communities. At this last meeting, to which Mr El Hadj Malick Ba, governor of the Fleuve region, assisted, were also present: the deputies of the three departments involved, the prefects, the governor's assistants, the director of the territorial and local government, the director of national development and the members of the regional development committee.

In his opening speech, Governor El Hadj Malick Ba, speaking in the name of the regional development committee, expressed his gratitude to the minister of state for his concern, and then proceeded to qualify this decision as an historical event of great importance for the future of the Fleuve region. The regional development committee then heard the report presented by the director of national development concerning the results of field surveys made by his department, which resulted in the formation of theories and the handling of a large mass of data.

#### Proposed Division

After the committee had heard this report, the prefects of Matam, Podor and Dagana, each presented the preliminary plans for the division of the arrondissements in their respective departments into rural communities; these plans had been prepared by the departmental development committees. Thus, 12 rural communities have been created in the Matam department: 3 in the Kanel arrondissement and 3 in the Senne arrondissement. The centers of the Matam department rural communities are: Orefonde, Les Agnans, Thilogne, Bokidiawve, Nabadji, Civol, Ogo, Ranerou, Kanel, Sinthiou-Banambe, Orkadiere, Senne and Dembancane.

In the Podor department, 10 rural communities have been accepted: 2 in the Salde arrondissement, 3 in Cas-Cas, 3 in Nidoum, and 2 in Thille Boubacar. The new centers are as follows: Pete, Galoya, Toucouleur, Aere Lao, Medina, Ndiaybes, Mboumba, Dodel, Gambadji Sare, Guede-Village, Ndiayene Pendao and Eanaye.

In the Dagana department, six rural communities have been selected: two in the Mbane arrondissement, two in Ross-Bethio and two in Rao. These communities are Mbane, Gae, Ross-Bethio, Ross-Senegal, Mpal and Ekongdon.

It should be noted that Richard-Toll will become a full-fledged commune to serve as a center for 7 villages and a total population of 11,041 inhabitants, while the Dangana commune, after its proposed enlargement, will include the villages of Talpakhle and Medina Cherif, in the Mbane arrondissement.

#### Conditions for Diversification

To bring government closer to those governed, to use good judgment in choosing the zones where conditions for a diversification of activities exist, to establish viable communities based on valid criteria, to maintain the balance between rural communities, such are the main reasons which have guided the selection of the rural communities.

Numerous opinions were expressed for or against certain village centers, but members of the departmental development committee defended their points of view, expressed criticism, and submitted proposals concerning the selection of the rural communities which represent development models.



Before closing the meeting, Mr Jean Collin, in a final statement, expressed his satisfaction that the regional development committee had completed his work within the time prescribed, due, he said, to the work which had also been done previously by the national development department. Mr Collin then went on to say that "while the director of national development, like myself, has not always had the satisfaction of seeing his personal views adopted by the regional development committee, he still has the satisfaction of having provided our committee with the bases for its work which, in my opinion, has been quite objective. I believe," he went on to say, "that we should be conscious of having worked seriously and objectively and, in doing so, of having made it possible to launch the rural communities of the Fleuve region on the date which we had set."

#### Commentary on Administrative Reform

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 8 Jan 80 pp 1,5

[Commentary by Sammy L. Chaupin: "A New Page"]

[Text] By approving its final division into its future rural communities, the Fleuve region, following several field studies aimed at creating homogeneous and economically viable groupings, has now completed a new stage on its way to the reform of territorial and local government.

The fact that the national development department and the minister of internal affairs have not always had the satisfaction of seeing their personal views adopted by the regional development committee, shows the importance attached by this region to the reform, a revolutionary undertaking which it is now going to live, after having made sure that it would have all chances of success.

Three departments divided into 28 rural communities, establishment of Richard-Toll as a commune, enlargement of the Dagana commune, such are the conclusions of the special regional development committee which met in Saint-Louis under the presidency of the minister of state in charge of internal affairs.

As Governor Elhadj Malick Ba pointed out, this decision has the scope of an historical event. It is in fact an in-depth change, the form, the substance and the finality of which escape to many Senegalese, and which those who are already living it, in the Thies, Sine-Saloum, Diourbel, Louga regions and in Casamance, rightfully call revolutionary.

Devolution, decentralization and regionalization of the plan, these are the fundamental principles of the administrative reform, the main objectives of which are to bring the government closer to the people it governs, and to increase responsibilities at the base; these objectives have been wished for and decided by the government, and accepted by today's rural populations who have now come of age both mentally and behaviorally.

The stakes placed by political parties in the election of presidents and members of rural councils result from the decision and implementation powers granted by the laws and regulations to these councils, the selection of which could appreciably alter the balance of power at a time when development projects are being drawn up.

Therefore, it is plain that the administrative reform goes beyond a simple transfer of powers and can lead to the selection of a social model, made possible by the credits resulting primarily from the rural tax and which have been placed at the disposal of rural councilors.

The main stages which are to ensure the success of the reform in the Fleuve region: training of rural councilors and application of the budgets. The former should enable newly elected officials to get acquainted with the laws and regulations, and with their rights and obligations in ensuring their application. The latter represents a decisive turn for which the collectivity--which does not have sufficient financial resources--will require assistance from the central government technical services, and it will make it possible to alter the face of villages by building new infrastructures. Unfortunately, there are many regrettable imperfections at this level, which have led rural populations to demand control over the various projects, the implementation of which might suffer from some "carelessness." Therefore, some rigor in the management of community resources is mandatory if its members are to perceive the changes which will permit development.

The Fleuve region should profit from the experience of other reformed regions where numerous national and international organizations give their assistance to this new form of participation-development, the results of which they do not doubt because of the powers given to its beneficiaries.

With its division into rural communities, this region has just written a new and important page in its history.

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# NO INCREASE IN PRICE OF RICE PLANNED

Dakar LE SOLEIL in French 9 Jan 80 pp 1,3

[Article: "Rice: No Price Increase Contemplated in Spite of Hoarding and Black Market Sales"]

[Text] There is still no rice in retail stores. This precious commodity is rare at the corner grocer's and at SONADIS [National Investment Company of Senegal]. Shady dealers, who have been maintaining a black market for days, have not hesitated to conclude that there is a scarcity. The kilogram which used to sell for 100 francs (or less) rose to 125 francs yesterday in Colobane, to give an example.

Yet, there is no scarcity. Just a false alert since the distribution of rice reserves which the Price Equalization and Stabilization Bank has begun on 3 January will continue until 18 January. To-date, 10,000 tons of rice have been distributed to wholesalers.

In addition to some retailers' jacking up the prices, there is the problem of the Senegalese consumer's habit who prefers broken rice to whole rice, the so-called rice from Siam to that from Argentina or Carolina which is now on the market.

However, if consumers turn up their noses at Argentina or Carolina rice, it is important to note that the authorities have no intention whatsoever of increasing the price of this staple commodity. This was confirmed to us by the director of the Price Equalization and Stabilization Bank which has now replaced ONCAD [National Office of Cooperation and Assistance for Development] in selling the rice.

## Normal Distribution/No Increase Contemplated

Some retailers have been temporarily out of rice, as has the Ouagou Niayes SONADIS where the last delivery was received on 31 December (and sold out within a few days). The manager is still waiting, so are the local people. The present rumors concerning a certain scarcity of rice are therefore without a basis. Nevertheless, it seems that the question of Senegalese consumers' habits remains unsolved; they prefer broken rice to whole rice, rice from Siam to rice from Argentina and Carolina which is now on the market.

Wholesalers in Rue Tolbiac whom we interviewed told us that they have bought rice from SONADIS. Mr Makam Baba Gaye, for instance, bought 100 tons: "There are two kinds. Rice at 13,000 francs a sack which we sell to retailers for 14,000 francs, and rice at 8,500 francs which we sell for 9,000 francs. We used to buy the latter from ONCAD for 10,500 francs and we would sell it for 11,000 francs."

"In actual fact," Mr Makam Baba Gaye continued, "there is no rice shortage. It is just that consumers turn up their noses at rice from Argentina or Carolina. At any rate, until now it has been business as usual for us. Retailers come and buy our product." At the Colobane market, that same Carolina rice is sold by retailers for 125 francs per kilogram.

For its part, the Price Equalization and Stabilization Bank told us that it had begun distribution of the rice reserves on 3 January. This distribution will end on 18 January. To-date, almost 10,000 tons of rice have been taken out of storage. They have been distributed to wholesalers. Anyhow, the authorities have no intention of increasing the price of this staple commodity. If some people are speculating, they will get nothing for their trouble.

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## AZAPO LEADER'S REMOVAL MAY BRING POLICY CHANGE

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 18 Jan 80 p 7

[Text]

THE Azanian People's Organisation, a black consciousness organisation in South Africa, has changed its views — and its president.

At an inaugural conference in Johannesburg four months ago, APO's first President, Mr Curtis Nkondo, said there would be no negotiations with South Africa.

He was ousted from office at the weekend by the central council of Azapo and the council is repudiating his statement.

Its secretary, Mr George Wauchope, says Azapo would negotiate like the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, which strove towards Rhodesia getting Black rule through negotiations.

But he stresses that South Africa's political climate would have to change to make room for it.

Another Black consciousness movement committed to non-negotiation is the Soweto Committee of Ten.

But here too there is a clash of opinion within the ranks as some members favour negotiation with the authorities.

It was at a conference in Hammanskraal at the weekend that Mr Nkondo was removed from office, after the central council accused him of

Negotiating with Mrs Helen Suzman of the Prog-

ressive Federal Party for the release of his detained brother;

Making public statements without consulting the central council;

Describing other Black organisations as being irrelevant. Whereas his organisation was seeking to win them to their political way of thinking;

Violating policy and principles and not respecting protocol; and

Meeting a US Senator contrary to Azapo's policy of not talking to Western officials.

Mr Nkondo has denied the allegations and has offered to run for re-election as president should members of the organisation ask him to do so.

He sees his expulsion as having been caused by a power struggle within the party.

He has been replaced by his deputy, Mrs Nombulelo Mela, a researcher with the University of Cape Town.



## REVENUE, SPENDING EXPECTED TO EXCEED ESTIMATES

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Jan 80 p 18

[Article by Laurette Munnik]

[Text]

INDICATIONS are that the Government will spend substantially more in its current financial year than provided for in the budget. But the good news is Government revenue will exceed the budgeted estimate even more.

According to latest income and expenditure figures for the State, for the nine months April 1 to December 31, the Government spent R8 873-million — 18 percent more than in the corresponding period for the previous financial year when it spent R7 499-million.

This compares with an estimated increase of 7 percent to R11 653-million for the full 12 month period.

On the income side, however, Government revenue, which is estimated to be 8 percent higher, is already, at R6 940-million, 20 percent higher than in the first nine months of the financial year, compared with the same period of last year (R5 833-million). Inland revenue alone has already shown an increase of 31 percent to R5 744-million.

Some of the higher spending, such as the increase in pensions which will add an additional R160-million to Government expenses, has

already been announced by Finance Minister, Gwen Horwood.

Senbank economist Louis Geldenhuys points out, however, that the Government is perhaps now stimulating the economy more than it intended to at the beginning of the year.

Such higher spending, plus allowing for cost increases, could bring total expenditure to as much as 15 percent more than budgeted for.

Mr Geldenhuys expects that in money terms, as much as R350-million will be spent in excess of the estimated figure of R11 653-million.

He also believes this year, the Government could receive as much as R1 000-million more in taxes, than it provided for.

As far as the individual departments are concerned, Defence has shown the biggest increase to date (54 percent) compared with last year.

It must be remembered, however, Mr Geldenhuys points out, that a substantial amount of the budgeted amount for this post was spent in the last few months of the previous financial year.

Total Defence expenditure for the 19 months is R1 352-million while the budget provides for an outlay of R1 612,4-million.

The Department of Co-operation and Development has already spent R332-million this financial year, which is 30 percent more than in the first nine months of the last financial year, while Mines' expenses are 24 percent higher at R170,5-million (R137,7-million) and Public Works' have risen 25 percent.

The latter's spending for the financial year to date is R254,45-million (R203,30-million).

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## INFLATION RATE LOWER THAN EXPECTED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jan 80 p 14

[Article by Laurette Munnik]

[Text]

THE inflation rate in December decelerated for the second month running on a year-on-year basis, bringing the rate for the 12 months of 1979 to 14,05 percent.

This rate is much lower than expected, says Dr Johan Cloete, Barclays Bank economist who had been expecting inflation rate of 15 percent for the year.

Dr Cloete points out that the wholesale price index for 1979 is still very high — over 18 percent — and that these prices should still filter through to the consumer.

The increase in the consumer price index for December was 0,37 percent, compared with 0,31 percent in November, but the rise for the 12 months to November was still higher at 14,19 percent, than the rise for the 12 months to December.

The index, base 1975=100, was 164 in the last month of 1979, compared with 163,4 in November and 143,8 in December 1978.

Of all the income groups, the higher group suffered most under rising prices, the index increasing to 165,4 during 1979, giving a 0,49 percent December rise and 14,39 percent over the year.

The annual rise for the middle income group was 14,1 percent and for December 0,37 percent. This group's index presently stands at 163,5 (1975=100).

The lower income group's index rose to 159,6 in December, reflecting a 0,13 percent increase for the month and a 12,24 percent rise for the year.

The lower income group's increase was relatively low, especially when compared with a rise of 0,55 percent in the index for food in December and a 12-month rise of 14,73 percent in the food index.

This discrepancy is best explained in terms of imported inflation, which, it seems, adds as much as 2 percent a year to the inflation rate.

Dr Cloete warns that although better wages and salaries are expected for 1980 especially in view of the buoyant economy, resulting from the high gold price, caution must be taken not to let wages and salaries increase too much. Exorbitant increases will only push up the inflation rate, so cancelling any rises in salaries and wages.

## NEW ROUND OF PAY NEGOTIATIONS DUE

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

**DISCUSSIONS, to bring workers' pay in line with expected boom conditions, will begin between some trade unions and employer organisations next month.**

A new round of negotiations will take into consideration pay increase shortcomings in recent slump years and supply and demand expectations in the near future.

The growing shortage of skilled and semi-skilled workers and possible losses of them amid increasing employer competition will result in fairly significant pay rise requests, trade unionists said yesterday.

But employer organisations and unions would not be drawn on the speculative 25 percent average increase figure.

Most artisans' unions are determined to recoup past losses due to inflation. The rise in the cost of living — 14 percent in November — must be well exceeded, they say.

While unionists sharpen their pencils, commercial firms are already known to be writing their own offers for skilled personnel in demand.

Mine Workers' Union general secretary Mr Arrie Paulus said the MWU would start discussions over pay for its 11 000 White workers at its congress next week.

The council of MWUs are expected to follow with pay negotiations for its 21 000 Whites shortly after.

"We cannot comment on the 25 percent figure given out," said Mr Paulus.

Tucsa's general secretary, Mr Arthur Grobbelaar, said its unions, representing all race groups, would make their demands individually.

"One can readily expect, now that the economy has revived, that these will be fairly substantial in relation to previous requests," said Mr Grobbelaar.

Mr Lou Davis, director of the Building Industries' Federation of South Africa (Bifsa) said that any suggestions that unions had or were in the process of making pay demands was a "shocking over-statement".

"If they make any requests in the light of inflationary pressure on behalf of their members then, in my experience, they will do this on the basis of negotiation."

Although unions were hard, they were responsible and amiable.

"I don't believe they will put us over a barrel," said Mr Davis.

What was going to affect the building industry would be the supply and demand for scarce skilled workers in the open market created by competing employers.

Dr Errol Drummond, director of the Steel and Engineering Industries of South Africa, whose 4 500 members employ 500 000 workers, said Seifsa had not been approached regarding the aspirations of the White, Coloured and Asian workers.

"When we are, this will be in connection with the wages contract which expires on June 30," said Dr Drummond.

Several railway unions have asked the Minister of Transport for increases of 15 percent to be announced in the Budget at the end of March.

The manager of a salary survey consulting group says that pay increases of about 12 percent are planned for general staff this year.

Executives are demanding as much as 15 percent, he says.

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## NEW CHIEF PREDICTS INCREASED NAVY ROLE

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Jan 80 p 2

[Text]

FUTURE events in the Indian Ocean could re-emphasise the strategic importance of South Africa, the incoming Chief of the Navy, Vice-Admiral R A Edwards, said in Pretoria yesterday.

After the handing over of command to him by the retiring chief, Vice-Admiral J C Walters, Adm Edwards said the Navy's role in guarding the subcontinent's coasts would increase in future.

"Events in the Indian Ocean, although thousands of miles from here, may nevertheless affect our interests directly or indirectly, and once more emphasise the valuable logistic infrastructure that only exists at the southern tip of the continent of Africa."

Loyalty and dedication would be decisive factors in the future Adm Edwards said, and he was fully confident that the navy, with the co-operation of the other combat forces, would continue to successfully protect South Africa's ports, coastline and territorial waters.

## Concept

The concept of a constellation of states for southern Africa had given a focal point to South Africans' national objectives and a possible answer to some of the many problems they had to solve, Adm Walters said.

"We live in a fast changing world where technological advances move ever faster. Developing nations who have not yet established a modern technological and industrial capability are falling further behind — and their task becomes more overwhelming every year."

## Depended on

"Internationally South Africa is largely depended on to provide facilities for searching and saving, for medical aid and repairs."

"This is nothing extraordinary. It is, after all, what can be expected of any country bordering on the sea, and we also expect it from similar countries because it is customary practice," Adm Walters said. — Sapa.

SCHLEBUSCH COMMISSION ADJOURNS INDEFINITELY

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jan 80 p 7

[Text]

CAPE TOWN — The Schlebusch Commission adjourned indefinitely yesterday after hearing a memorandum from the United Municipal Executive calling for the decentralisation of authority to municipal bodies.

The UME said in its memorandum the problem with the current SA political and administrative system was that total authority was excessively centralised and principally in the hands of the White race.

**Philosophy**

The UME outlined their basic philosophy underlying a proposed new constitutional dispensation to be:

● The right of every national and cultural group to retain its own identity in its own area and to live its life

to the full according to its own judgment;

● The maintenance of the greatest degree of individualism in the economy and in politics by upholding the principles of a free economic system, that is, a free marketing system with the minimum of interference by the authorities;

**Democracy**

● Upholding the principles of a true democracy, that is, the greatest degree of effective individual participation by every member of every national group in the political and administrative processes by means of representative institutions of authority, freedom of thought, freedom of assembly and association, and freedom of speech, which included freedom of the written word and Press freedom; and

● The full application of the "trias politica" doctrine, that is, the divorcing of the legislative, executive and judicial authority. — Sapa.

CSO: 4420

# MINISTER ANNOUNCES IMMIGRATION INCENTIVES FOR SKILLED

## Schlebusch Announcement

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 21 Jan 80 p 3

[Text]

**INCENTIVES** are being worked out jointly by employer organisations and the Government to attract immigrants to fill thousands of skilled jobs.

This announcement was made at the weekend by the Minister of Justice and Interior, Mr Abryn Schlebusch, who said the Government was working out a better "group affinity" scheme for immigrants.

A lack of a wide variety of skilled workers is already curtailing progress in organisations experiencing the economic boom.

Employer organisations have been unable or unwilling to train or attract South Africans of all race groups into many skilled and semi-skilled positions.

Already predictions have been made that this new policy will pave the way for the biggest influx of immigrants since 1975 when they averaged 6 000 a month.

And some travel sources told The Citizen they expected the Government to increase its contribution to travel costs from its present R175 to about R500 per person.

Mr Schlebusch is expected to announce details of the incentives as soon as these have been worked out.

In order to attract workers, especially artisans, a general easing of restrictions on recruiting overseas workers is to be announced.

Artisans may be allowed into the country even if they do not have firm job offers.

Immigration procedures will be streamlined, while the Government will help employers advertise and recruit workers abroad.

Mr H G Williamson, SAA's director of marketing, told The Citizen that an "group affinity" scheme for immigrants catered for those workers who had been in demand in South Africa.

He could give no indication what changes would be made to cope with the boom demand.

Mr Eberhard Gennrich, vice-president of the Association of Southern Africa Travel Agents, said: "The new scheme, preferably with fares paid in South Africa."

## Reassurance to Workers

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Jan 80 p 3

[Article by Jap Theron]

[Text]

**CAPE TOWN.** — "No one in South Africa need to fear that his job would be taken by an immigrant," the Deputy Minister responsible for immigration, Mr Pen Kotze, said yesterday.

Reacting to fears expressed yesterday by trade unions and other organisations that the Government's relaxation of immigration measures might adversely affect job opportunities, Mr Kotze gave the assurance "that the Government will not allow foreigners to take the jobs of local craftsmen."

Following the present economic build-up in South Africa it has become necessary to relax labour recruiting regulations. The regulations, also affecting immigrants, have already been relaxed in regard to most skilled job categories.

But relaxation does not benefit immigrants in trades in, for example, the building industry, where it is possible to train craftsmen of all races in a reasonably short period.

Immigrants will only be allowed in these trades if the industries themselves, wanted them.

## 'THE CITIZEN' Comment

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 22 Jan 80 p 5

[Editorial: "Their Skills Needed"]

[Text]

THE NEWS that the Government is to make it easier for skilled workers to be recruited abroad and that they may be given more extensive assisted passages, will be received with mixed feelings.

The official policy in recent times has been — and still is — to encourage the advancement of Black workers.

That is as it should be, since it is in the national interest that work opportunities for Blacks should be opened up on a vast scale, and that Blacks should acquire skills that were long denied them because of job reservation and other discriminatory laws and practices.

In theory, therefore, we should be keeping the immigration of workers as low as possible.

However, there is an increasing shortage of skilled workers, especially artisans.

And the positions that are falling vacant cannot be filled by people who still lack skills and experience.

Therefore, we shall have to look abroad for some of our manpower requirements.

Provided Blacks are not held back, the policy should be accepted as being realistic and necessary.

Helping, as it will, to provide the skilled men who are required in the buoyant economic conditions that lie ahead.

At the same time, the importation of new skills will help to create job opportunities for existing workers.

Whether we will get all the immigrants we need is something only time will tell.

Our main source of recruiting will no doubt be Rhodesia — but only if the outcome of the election there is unfavourable to the Whites.

Immediate immigration from most other countries is not likely to be very substantial, because of the uncertainties in Southern Africa as a whole.

However, if the gold boom continues, and South Africa looks like resolving its problems, the country will become attractive again for settlers.

The one essential proviso is that jobs that can be filled by local workers should not be thrown open to immigrants.

Careful selection should ensure that this proviso is observed.



## KOEBERG NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSED

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jan 80 p 7

[Text]

CAPE TOWN. — International politics can be a factor in determining what is to be done with nuclear waste produced by Koeberg, says Mr P H Spencer, project leader of the nuclear power station.

Commenting on an Escom report dealing with the possible dangers of the nuclear plant he said disposal of nuclear waste remained a matter of concern but no definite course of action had been decided on.

"The general attitude is that people who generate waste should be responsible enough to cope with it. At the moment, we are not yet certain what we will do but we are discussing the matter with the Atomic Energy Board and working out a strategy."

"We will take time to come to a conclusion and are even looking for sites for storage but have not yet selected one."

Mr Spencer said it was not a pressing problem yet and it was possible to stop the fuel waste until about 1990.

The report, debated at a meeting of the Cape Town City Council, said the waste from the highly radioactive spent-fuel elements would be reimported for storage in South Africa after it had been processed overseas.

The nuclear power station will produce about 11 tons of

waste each year, which after being encapsulated will weigh 350 tons, all of which will be disposed of in South Africa.

About one ton of the nuclear waste will consist of high-level fission product waste and the rest will consist of waste with a low level of radioactivity.

Some of the solid waste, known as high-level waste, is highly radioactive but small in volume.

It will be encapsulated and stored retrievably for some years to permit radioactive decay. Later, disposal will take place at a suitable site.

Methods for the storing and disposal of low-level, intermediate-level and high-level wastes are safe and constitute no danger to the environment or the public, according to the Escom report.

Gaseous wastes are to be stored in the plant and then released into the air. Liquid waste with a low level of radioactivity will be stored inside the plant and then diluted to a harmless level and discharged into the sea.

Mr Spencer told the city council the Koeberg plant would initially have two reactors but there was space for a third reactor without alteration to the site.

The Escom report said the site was large enough to accommodate up to six reactors. — Sapa.

## BRIEFS

MARGINAL GOLD MINES PROFITABILITY--The soaring bullion price has increased the "safety" margin of gold mines to such an extent that, on an average price of \$600 an ounce, no gold company will have to mine ore of a higher grade than 2,63 g/t [grams/ton] to break even. This astounding fact appears in a table compiled by London stockbrokers James Capel & Co. in its latest mining review. The table shows that Marievale, whose grade is only 1,9 g/t at present would break even with a grade of only 0,49 g/t. On the other end of the scale, the world's two richest mines, West Driefontein and East Driefontein, currently operating on yields of 21,8 g/t and 19,9 g/t need only a 2,13 g/t and 1,91 g/t average yields to come out on par. In other words, when looking at the gold mines belonging to the mining houses, the marginal mines of yesteryear are no more! Even if the gold price cracks from its current highs of well above \$800 an ounce to a "low" of \$400 an ounce the mines will all still break even at grades far below those they are mining at present. [Excerpts] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 19 Jan 80 p 14]

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